

# NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION'S 2025 BNEC & BNAC

A supplement to Publishers' Auxiliary

## PUB AUX



MARY HUBER FOR PUB AUX

2025 Better Newspaper Contest winners gather for the awards presentation at the 139th Annual Convention & Trade Show in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Front row, left to right:** Joshua Wood, Saratoga (Wyoming) Sun; Tim Linscott, Fairbury (Nebraska) Journal-News; Diane Everson, The Edgerton (Wisconsin) Reporter; Beth Cornish, The Henderson (Minnesota) Independent; John Galer, The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois; Mike Mallow, Grant County Herald, Elbow Lake, Minnesota; **Middle row:** Lisa Adelman, Douglas (Wyoming) Budget; Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan; Carrie Pitzer, Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska; Molly McRoberts, Potter County News, Gettysburg, South Dakota; NNA Chair Martha Diaz Aszkenazy, The San Fernando (California) Valley Sun/el Sol Newspaper; Hannah Spaar, The Odessan of Odessa, Missouri; Peggy Year, Cedar County News, Hartington, Nebraska; Ashton Hagen, Grant County Herald, Elbow Lake, Minnesota; **Back row:** Matt Adelman, Douglas (Wyoming) Budget; George Fiala, The Red Hook Star-Review, Brooklyn, New York; Rick L. Bussler, Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota; Matt Paxton, The News-Gazette, Lexington, Virginia; Brian Wilson, Star News, Medford, Wisconsin; Rachel Miller, The Henderson (Minnesota) Independent; Rob Dump, Cedar County News, Hartington, Nebraska; Adam Meyer, Teton Media Works, Jackson, Wyoming; John Elchert, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan



**FIRST PLACE**, Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-9,999  
Renee' Brich, Hartan (Iowa) News-Advertiser

A tornado struck the town of Minden, IA, destroying over half the homes and all of the businesses. During clean-up, employees of the Minden Meat Market found the flag which had been hanging inside behind the counter, and displayed it on the outside of the damaged building, which eventually had to be torn down.



# EDITORIAL

*Judge comments are in quotations following the award.*

## BEST INFORMATIONAL GRAPHIC

**Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000**

**First Place:** Jigowatt Tax Breakdown by Angelique Boyer, Stanton (Nebraska) Register. “Clever use of imagery to represent bitcoin tax proceeds.”

**Second Place:** Thermometer by Staff, Cedar County News, Hartington, Nebraska. “Simple but effective method to show temperature extremes.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999**

**First Place:** Steaming Through the Years by Mike Anderson, Amy Hubbell, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “Eye-catching design, well-planned layout and bite-size nuggets of information make the overall project an easy and interesting read. I'm certain your readers enjoyed it immensely. Keep up the good work.”

**Second Place:** What's allowed on Teton County pathways? by Andy Edwards, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “Clever idea and educational. I might steal this for my own newspaper. Congratulations to your graphics department. This took a lot of work but it was worth it.”

**Third Place:** October 17, 2024 edition of the Taos News (B8, Gas infographic) by Paul Gutches, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Great idea for an info graphic to go with a story. I would have liked to have seen mileage between each station. Still, good job!”

**Honorable Mention:** PFAs graphic illustration by Christina Scotti, Sparta Independent, Chester, New York. “I think the depth, width and length of the pools should have been illustrated. Still, good idea.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-3,999**

**First Place:** Crime down, theft persists by Kim Draper, Lander Journal, Riverton, Wyoming. “Excellent! Love the police car lights in the large circle. Also like how the other pieces of the pie are pulled out of the graph. This makes a powerful statement. Great job!”

**Second Place:** Best Informational Graphic by Rick Bussler, Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. “Effective graphic! Torn page effect adds a layer of depth, as do the highlighted material and the blacked-out portion. Simple, powerful.”

**Third Place:** Tiburon HOA fights to undo accidental tax auction by Kevin Hessel, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Effective. This proves



**FIRST PLACE,** Best Breaking News Photo, Daily Division, Tim Hynds, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal

Tam Nguyen, seated with hat, and Bruce Ege are rescued by Sioux City Fire Rescue firefighters from their flooded homes in the Riverside neighborhood of Sioux City Monday morning. The evacuations were occurring in the wake of flooding from the Big Sioux and Missouri Rivers.

that a simple graphic will make a powerful point.”

**Honorable Mention:** By the Numbers by Pierce Stradler, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “Numbers don't lie, and these numbers show the increases. Easy to read chart.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 4,000-5,999**

**First Place:** Primary Election Results by Jessica Prevatt, The Baker County Press, Macclenny, Florida. “The best informational graphic is always one you don't notice. Functional and useful”

**Second Place:** Johnson County: By the numbers by Stacy Bronson, The Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin. “Presentation of information is incredible with the background photo. Informational and useful.”

**Third Place:** Beat the heat by Anita Duran, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. “Great use of visual ties ins.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 15,000 or more**

**First Place:** Finding and Raising Monarch Caterpillars by David Hartong, Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio. “Superb combination of color photography, sharp typography as well as innovative layout makes this a compelling look. Spectacular.”

**Second Place:** ODNr celebrates 75 years by David Hartong, Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio. “Excellent. What could have been a mundane story about an agency celebrating an anniversary is brought to life by vivid photography, striking typography and talented layout. Very well done!”

## STORY-SERIES - BEST LOCALIZED NATIONAL STORY

**Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000**

**First Place:** Salmonella outbreak by Mary Stroka, News Letter Journal, New Castle, Wyoming. “Good piece that goes beyond just looking at a local outbreak, and give information on the impact nationally. Giving actionable information on the illness a real plus also.”

**Second Place:** 'Hope' lost and found

in Daniel, WY by Cali O'Hare, Pinedale (Wyoming) Roundup. “Very in-depth story, with good context of previous aspects.”

**Third Place:** Shortage of court reporters affecting regulators, district courts by Mike W. Ray, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “Good piece on a lesser-known issue affecting localities.”

**Honorable Mention:** 26 illegals in Oklahoma are potential candidates for Trump's deportation order by Mike W. Ray, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “Juxtaposition of this story with a more global look at the problem was effective.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-3,999**

**First Place:** Businesses find ways to cope with rising costs, energy bills by Francisco Martinez, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Well done piece on local impact of high energy costs--an issue that crosses all states' borders.”

**Second Place:** School board lawyer says school board must adopt new national LGBTQ regulations by Kristy Bailey, The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina. “Detailed story of why a council voted they way they did. Well written.”

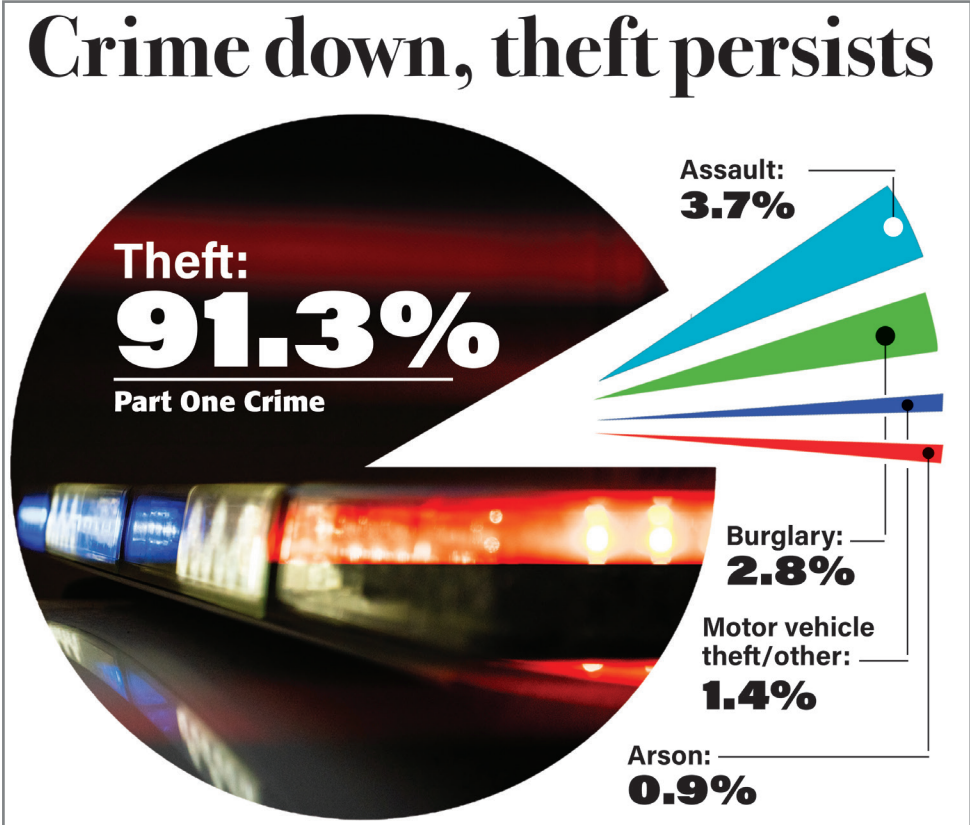
**Third Place:** A Landerite in the West Bank by Marit Gookin, Lander Journal, Riverton, Wyoming. “Well written piece on local connection to international issue.”

**Honorable Mention:** Report emphasizes urgent need to respond to sea-level rise, but peninsula efforts stall by Gretchen Lang, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Thorough and well-documented piece on a significant local issue. Well done.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 4,000-5,999**

**First Place:** Missing, then murdered by Sarah Squires, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. “Strong writing, a powerful story at a local level that plays out too many times in Indigenous communities. Powerful and heartbreaking.”

**Second Place:** Alzheimer forum and study by Trisha Walker, Columbia Gorge News, Hood River, Oregon. “Strong writing. Especially



**FIRST PLACE,** Best Informational Graphic, Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-3,999, Kim Draper, Lander Journal, Riverton, Wyoming

There are two categories law enforcement report crime under: Part One crimes, which are considered to be major crimes, and Part Two crimes. In Wyoming, theft (larceny) is a Part One crime, reported separately from other Part One crimes such as burglaries (breaking and entering), robbery (taking something of value using force or the threat of violence) and motor vehicle theft. The majority of Lander's Part One crimes in 2023 were theft.







jut into the nameplate. The banner headline and “why it matters to locals” info, also in white lettering, frames one side of the cup. Across the bottom of the image a white semi-transparent overlay gives readers—in black lettering—the at-a-glance need-to-know info, where to find coverage inside, and what to expect in terms of coverage during the tournament from four different Pilot media streams. And that’s just above the fold. Below the fold is equally compelling with text for the beginnings of two articles and jumps framing a middle column of graduation photos and jump; teasers for four other articles, one with a photo; colorful weather graphics; and a brief index. Packed with information, the neat layout with plenty of white space compels rather than overwhelms.”

**Second Place:** Farm and Dairy Front Page 5-2-24 by David Hartong, Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio. “The front page of Farm and Dairy’s May 2 edition flows from top to bottom. Two teasers above the banner call attention to short-track racing photos and garden info inside. The banner, with its bucolic bovine logo sticking its nose over the edge of the cover photo, carries the eye to the photo itself—a shot of the bones of an aged barn in front of which stand five guys in cold-weather work garb. The all-caps banner headline, “New Life for Old Barns,” overlays the photo down the left side of the image and leads to three columns of text below. A second article in a narrower separate column runs down the right edge of the page. The neutral colors in the cover photo—shades of browns, grays, creams, and goldenrod—are picked up in the cream-colored banner headline and the light gray fill in the second article. But it’s the pops of orange—beginning with the graphic in the upper left teaser touting the race reports and moving down to the muted pumpkin-colored fill behind the word for in the banner headline which, moving to the right, matches the knit cap worn by one of the workers and, moving down, to the pumpkin-colored large-font quotation marks on a pull-out quote—that tie the page together. The warm colors, old-barn-salvagers group photo, and comfortable layout invite readers to refill their coffee mugs and settle in to read. The comprehensive index at the bottom is a bonus.”

**Third Place:** maylaurel.indd by Valerie Morris, Ashley Parks, The Laurel Independent, Hyattsville, Maryland. “The May issue of The Laurel Independent features a clean, easy-to-navigate layout that makes use of white space, black divider lines of varying thickness, and a squares-within-squares design that draws the eye systematically to the colorful off-center photo. What keeps the geometric layout from unrelenting rigidity is the stem of the letter ‘p’ in the word Independent that breaks through the line divid-

ing the nameplate from the body of the page. Despite the paper’s smaller size, the Independent fits, along with the cover photo, three articles with jumps on its front page and, in the upper right corner, a small index to items inside.”

**Daily Division**

**First Place:** Jan. 27 front page by Zack Aldrich, Portland (Maine) Press Herald. “Nice looking front page with four stories. The main (no pun intended) focus is on a large lobster image accompanying story. Headlines and drop heads maybe a bit too wordy, but there appears to be attention to detail in spacing.”

**Second Place:** Sioux City Journal by Staff, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “Clean front page with just two stories (vertical presentation) and refer info at the bottom. The main image is cunningly offset with a cut-out mug shot. Good use of subheads to help break up type.”

**Third Place:** Having Second Thoughts by Mallory Schenach, Gillette (Wyoming) News Record. “Second entry by this publication again uses wide measure columns for the lead story, but it is better displayed here than in other entry.”

**Honorable Mention:** Trump guilty 5-31-24 by Emily Mibach, The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California. “A busy looking front page that appears to have four zones: the crowded top zone promoting inside information, the main story, the secondary story plus a busy looking roundup, and footer information consisting of ads. Good presentation of the main story, but the rest tries to cover too much ground.”

**BEST ONLINE ALBUM OR SLIDE SHOW**

**Non-daily Division**

**First Place:** Monster trucks and Army recruits by Chad Cooper, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Great action shots!”

**Second Place:** Rodeo by Chaed Cooper, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Great photos!”

**Third Place:** Johnson County Fair by Tanishka Poal, Cara Penquite, Marco Monterastelli, The Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin. “Diversity of what is photographed makes this entry stand out.”

**Honorable Mention:** P.O.D. - proverbially perfect by Chad Cooper, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “This type of scenery is hard to photograph and the photographer did a great job capturing this event.”

**BEST READER-GENERATED CAMPAIGN**

**Non-daily Division**

**First Place:** Celestial events by Ark Readers, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “The Ark publishes reader-submitted photos on its front page. One category of such photos is celestial events and the three photos included in this entry are striking examples of the beauty to be found when we look up. One is a once-in-

every-80,000 years shot of a comet streaking across the evening sky. The other two capture the northern lights in all their magnificence. The Ark contextualizes the images by providing scientific information about the scenes.”

**Second Place:** The Vacationer by Gerri Peterson, Hooker County Tribune, Mullen, Nebraska. “Throughout the year, the Hooker County Tribune invites readers to take their paper with them when they travel and to send in selfies of themselves

and the Tribune in far-off places. “The Vacationer” is an annual compilation of the photos received and the photos appearing in the January 2024 issue included ones taken in various places around the country and a couple of places from around the world.”

**Third Place:** Sports Shout by Ark Readers, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Most local papers cover high school sports and a few may cover middle-school sports. But sports featuring younger teams? The Ark’s

# Finding & Raising Monarch Caterpillars

The Monarch butterfly is one of North America’s most iconic and beautiful insects. You probably remember raising the familiar black, yellow and white striped caterpillars in preschool or kindergarten. One week you’ve got a pudgy, brilliantly colored worm with tiny legs. A couple of weeks later, they become slender black insects with white freckles and beautiful paper-light, orange and black wings.

## Finding Caterpillars:

- Search for Monarch caterpillars where milkweed thrives — undeveloped agricultural fields, meadows and areas where vegetation has been allowed to grow on disturbed land.
- Monarch caterpillars will remain caterpillars for 10 to 14 days. During this time, they will molt five times, meaning you can find them in roughly five different sizes.

## Raising Monarchs:

- 1 **SETUP A HABITAT.** Habitats should have good ventilation, a moisture source such as a wet paper towel, plenty of room (one caterpillar per jar or three per large mesh carrier) and fresh milkweed daily.
- 2 **FEED YOUR CATERPILLAR.** Feed your caterpillar from the plant you found it on originally. It’s a good way to prevent bacteria exposure and it’s more likely the caterpillar will consume that type of milkweed.
- 3 **KEEP YOUR HABITAT CLEAN.** Clear out the frass (caterpillar poop) and change the paper towel daily.
- 4 **BE PATIENT.** Eventually, your caterpillar will start to look very plump. Then, it will attach itself to either the milkweed or the top of its habitat with a tiny silk web and hang down in a ‘J’ shape. It’s building its chrysalis.
- 5 **LET IT REST.** The pupa stage will last for nine to 14 days. When the chrysalis starts to darken and you can see the butterfly’s wings through its skin, it’s a sign the butterfly will be emerging soon.
- 6 **RELEASE YOUR BUTTERFLY.** Once the butterfly completely sheds its chrysalis, its wings will take 4 to 5 hours to dry out. You can leave it in its habitat or put it in a safe, shaded spot outside while its wings dry. It needs to be released within 24 hours of emerging to eat.

Source: farmanddairy.com/top-stories/how-to-find-and-raise-monarch-caterpillars/436878.html

**FIRST PLACE,** Best Informational Graphic, Non-daily Division, circ. 15,000 or more, David Hartong, Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio



“Sports Shout” space invites submissions from community members such as coaches and parents who send in brief write-ups of games written in full sportscaster lingo and accompanied by action photos and group shots. The sports covered vary with the seasons, but this regular feature highlighting a segment of the community seldom covered by reporters probably goes a long way in ensuring loyal readers now and in building a next-generation base of newspaper readers for the future.”

**Honorable Mention:** Baby and Dog by Staff, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “‘Baby and Dog’ is a feature of The Highlands Current and is described as ‘a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down.’ The paper invites people to submit pictures of a baby and a dog. This portrait, taken by a professional photographer in what appears to be a park, showcases a sun-dappled Golden Retriever seated on the grass next to and towering over a golden-haired child dressed in shades of cream and peach.”

## BEST REPORTING ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Non-daily Division circ. less than 2,000**

**First Place:** Local ballot errors, Investigation continues by Alexis Barker, News Letter Journal, New Castle, Wyoming. “Excellent reporting and follow up. The box showing previous errors was an excellent addition to the story. Quality work all the way around. A+”

**Second Place:** Reporting on local government by Rob Dump, Cedar County News, Hartington, Nebraska. “Quality work in identifying an important local story and following it through. Writing is good and story is told thoroughly.”

**Third Place:** DA to investigate allegations of Open Meetings violation by Eric Swanson, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “One of the more thorough pieces I’ve read this year. Good work.”

**Honorable Mention:** City council votes ‘no’ to sanctuary ordinance by Roger Estlack, Clarendon (Texas) Enterprise. “Well-written and solid reporting.”

## Non-daily Division circ. 2,000-3,999

**First Place:** Fighting the BLM’s RMP by Hannah Romero, The Green River (Wyoming) Star. “Thorough accounting of how even state and local government can get caught under the wheels of the federal government.”

**Second Place:** V.C. parks now tree graveyards by Kimberly Rivers, Ojai (California) Valley News. “Our most important duty is to keep an eye on government, and this is an excellent example. Clear, concise description of a ‘how could this have happened?’ decision.”

**Third Place:** Tiburon HOA fights

to undo accidental tax auction by Francisco Martinez, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Thorough, deep and detailed. The reporter didn’t take the easy way out, taking the serious approach on something that easily could have been treated as another wacky government foul-up story.”

**Honorable Mention:** Buckhorn Road side meeting, rezoning, & annexation - story & sidebars (July 4, 2024) by Kristy Bailey, The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina. “The publisher and the reporter are right — the recess meeting-within-a-meeting stunk to high Heaven.”

## Non-daily Division circ. 4,000-5,999

**First Place:** The cost of transparency by Sarah Squires, Marit Gookin, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. “This newspaper is doing what good journalists do - investigating a problem, providing detailed results. Great story on an important issue for every citizen.”

**Second Place:** Bad dog, bad laws by Brian Wilson, Medford (Wisconsin) Star News. “Well sourced and well written, exploring all sides of this issue.”

**Third Place:** Wooded Acreage Assessment Is State Statute by Mary (Galer) Herschelman, The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois. “Good continuing coverage of an obviously controversial local issue.”

**Honorable Mention:** ‘Don’t offer a moose a muffin’ by Sophia Aldous, Newport (Washington) Miner/Gem State Miner. “Short but very readable. The headline is great!”

## Non-daily Division circ. 6,000-9,999

**First Place:** 399 inspired policy change, yet work remains by Charley Sutherland, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “Offbeat story - at least to this reader - struck just the right balance between seriousness of the subject and putting a bear face to it.”

**Second Place:** Town Planning In the Hot Seat by Alex Hoeft, Moonshine Ink, Truckee, California. “The number of on-the-record comments about the powers that be is remarkable. great job telling it like it is.”

**Third Place:** Holding candidates accountable by Jasmine Hall, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “Those seeking elected office have to be held to high standards. The writer has no qualms about asking tough questions.”

**Honorable Mention:** Meredith Jordan by James Robinson, Port Townsend (Washington) and Jefferson County Leader. “the conflicting ‘facts’ of this case are head-spinning. great job following through.”

## Non-daily Division circ. 10,000-14,999

**First Place:** Coverage of Philadelphia 76ers conflict by Lauren Rowello, Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) Gay



**FIRST PLACE,** Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000, David Claybourn, Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas

**Fly me to the moon and sun. A jet plane passes in the path of the total solar eclipse on Monday afternoon over Greenville. The rare occurrence attracted many visitors from other states to Greenville, which also celebrated the event with the Total Eclipse of the Hearts music festival on Sunday at the Greenville SportsPark.**

News. “Great coverage of a community issue from the perspective of residents who continue to fight hard for the neighborhood they love.”

**Second Place:** Big Box Country series by Becca Tucker, Advertiser-News North, Chester, New York. “Helping the community understanding weighing the value of tax increases vs. quality of life.”

**Third Place:** Village master plan glides through Sun Valley P&Z by Gabe Barnard, Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, Idaho. “Show the community the value of their input as it affects the future of their community and keeps town leaders on track.”

**Honorable Mention:** Hardin County Commissioners Court, Port Arthur City Council by Dannie Oliveaux, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Educates the community on delinquencies cause by lack of oversight.”

## Non-daily Division circ. 15,000 or more

**First Place:** How one Maine town is prepping for its next disaster by Emmett Gartner, The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine. “Great deep dive into a town that found itself alone and without resources when a disaster struck. Good mix of personal stories and scrutinizing town decisions.”

**Second Place:** The Short and Whining Road by Ana Risano, The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina. “This writer took a relatively dry topic, a road repair that residents think was shoddily done, and made it very entertaining. And kept it brief. Well handled.”

**Third Place:** Goats Facing a Gruff Goodbye by Matt Lamb, The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina. “Fun look at a surprisingly common local problem.”

**Honorable Mention:** Western Pa. residents fight for increased well

pad setbacks by Liz Partsch, Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio. “Close coverage of a community concern.”

## Daily Division

**First Place:** Too cool for comfort by Caitlin Yamada, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “Smart accountability reporting and excellent use of freedom of information requests to find out what was going on with a long-delayed local project.”

**Second Place:** Tampering cop hired here by Emily Mibach, The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California. “Important reporting holding local law enforcement accountable for past actions.”

**Third Place:** County slow to release Covid report by Elaine Goodman, The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California. “Great job staying on top of the county to get this report that was critical of its actions.”

**Honorable Mention:** Laramie County denies firework permit, company claims discrimination by Noah Zahn, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “Serious claims, but an entertaining approach to the story. The lede made me laugh out loud.”

## BEST USE OF A DOUBLE-TRUCK

**Non-Daily Division, circ. less than 2000**

**First Place:** Giant Days coverage by Rachel Miller, Beth Cornish, Angie Wilson, Henderson (Minnesota) Independent. “The Henderson Independent’s coverage of Le Sueur’s three-day Giant Days celebration features a two-page spread of photos—the left page in full color; the right page, due to printing limitations, in black-and-white—showcasing the people, events, performers, and fireworks. The thoughtfully composed and shadow-boxed pics are carefully arranged photo-album style below a banner reading “Giant



2024 PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS									
<u>Sheriff</u>		<u>School Superintendent</u>		<u>County Judge</u>		<u>County Commission #1</u>		<u>County Commission #3</u>	
Scotty Rhoden	75%	Wyatt Milton	72%	Julie Johnson	64%	Ronald Mann	46%	Ann Watts	32%
J.D. Carpenter	25%	Allen Murphy	28%	Lorelie Brannan	36%	Kenu Turk	18%	Tyler Mobley	68%
<u>US Senator (R)</u>		<u>US Congress (R)</u>		<u>US Senator (D)</u>		Phillip Jefferson 23%			
Rick Scott	81%	Kat Cammack	83%	Brian Rush	23%	Lucious Lee 13%			
Keith Gross	15%	Alec Stevens	17%	Stanley Campbell	25%				
John Columbus	4%			Rod Joseph	10%				
				Debbie Powell	42%				
						<b>TOTAL VOTER TURNOUT: 51%</b>			
						<b>FULL ELECTION STORY ON PAGE 4</b>			

**Second Place:** CFC Sex Scandal by Kay Fate and Rick Bussler, Steele



County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. “Powerful, detailed piece that evolved over time. Credit the reporter for gathering so much information through interviews that had to be extraordinarily challenging. Told the story while avoiding unnecessary detail, great balance.”

**Third Place:** Tradiciones by Ellen Miller-Goins, Paul Gutches, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Well-written series with very detailed stories about fascinating individuals. The photographs and layout were superb and eye-catching.”

**Honorable Mention:** Martha Belongs to Marin by Francisco Martinez, Naomi Friedland, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “A complex tale well told over time. These issues are very arcane to most people, but the reporter navigated them flawlessly and told the story in a manner coherent to readers.”

BEST HUMOROUS COLUMN

Daily & Non-daily, circ. less than 5,000

**First Place:** Lessons from North Scott's 1974 book furor by Erin M. Gentz, Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press. “This column was relevant to modern day, while drawing a funny story from the past that we all can laugh about.”

**Second Place:** Born with a rainbow in his heart by Steve Marion, The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, Tennessee. “Anyone can see the time, though and penmanship that went into this column, which was both funny and touching. I got to know these people through small stories that gave me a sense of who they were.”

**Third Place:** Birdmageddon by Allen VanNoppen, The Paper, Morganton, North Carolina. “Funny, easy read and has reader involvement.”

**Honorable Mention:** Neb DOT by Rob Dump, Cedar County News, Hartington, Nebraska. “Quick, funny, informative and relatable for readers - something anyone can enjoy.”

**Daily & Non-daily circ. 5,000 - 9,999**

**First Place:** Coasters and Monkey Skeletons by Beth Quinn, Sparta Independent, Chester, New York. “We’ve all been there -- too many coasters, or not enough. Well done!”

**Second Place:** Corn Loss by Alan Campbell, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “I’m no farmer but this was funny.”

**Third Place:** View from the Hole by Mark Huffman, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “The last man with a landline. Had fun reading this on my phone.”

**Honorable Mention:** Humorous Column Writing by Christine Grados, Fredericksburg (Texas) Standard-Radio Post. “Love the ending. That about sums it up: You’re not old, you just don’t have the right app.”

**Daily & Non-daily circ. 10,000 or more**

**First Place:** aprillaurel.indd.pdf by Bob Reilly, The Laurel Independent, Hyattsville, Maryland. “Relax. These are not the robots threatening to take over our jobs.”

**Second Place:** You too can be an influencer by Bruce Miller, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “Every generation has its version of a generation gap.”

**Third Place:** My worst summer job was nothing to wink at by Beth Quinn, Township Journal, Chester, New York. “Oh the things our parents think we will enjoy. Or just be good at.”

**Honorable Mention:** A Whole Lot of Baloney on My Lost Love of Liverwurst by John Nagy, The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina. “The demise of liverwurst is no loss, but at least you got a column out of it.”

BEST SERIOUS COLUMN

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000

**First Place:** We're on the same lonely dock, but our ship will come in on the other side by Lori Sorenson, Rock County Star Herald, Luverne, Minnesota. “You are in an exclusive club that no parent should ever have to be in. Sadly, we see more stories like this than should be, of the "Forever xx" club of youth. The last three paragraphs really show how you have managed to get through your grief. It isn't easy to write about loss of any loved one. Your column, the headline and that somber image of the dock made a beautiful package. Congratulations on 1st place hardly seems right, considering your pain. Thank you for sharing your journey with your readers. Keep a copy of your column in your wallet, if you aren't already.”

**Second Place:** Greenville 3 by Kent Miller, Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas. “Extremely touching tribute. Sometimes it is difficult for a writer to bare the deepest hurts in their life to their readers. You shared the good along with the not so good memories and the love you hold for your mother - I think she is beaming proudly at you for this column. Congratulations Kent, on 2nd place! There were so many great columns, but the best ones are those that are the most personal. Frame yours proudly on your wall of wins.”

**Third Place:** Father, son give insightful review of Temple Grandin by James Finck, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “James Finck, every column I read of yours was wonderful. This one I really connected with as I have a couple of grandsons who have autism. I loved the Kristofferson piece. I do not know how I never knew of you or your columns, being that I am just a couple towns away from you in a neighboring county and have been in news for 30 plus years. Now I am a fan of your work! Keep up the great work, your columns cover a diverse range of topics and are all

well written. Congratulations on 3rd place in a big pool of entries and many great writers.”

**Honorable Mention:** 10-8 Bidding farewell to Kris Kristofferson by James Finck, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “A well researched and excellent piece of writing put this column into the win pile. Not every serious column has to be about politics or even local issues. As writers, journalists have an obligation to keep the history alive and you have done just that with the Kristofferson piece. Thanks for a great read! Congratulations on 4th place!”

**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999**

**First Place:** I STAND TO HONOR MY MILITARY FAMILY, REJECT INJUSTICE by Zeke Watson, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “While there were parts of your column that I perceived to have been written for the stereotype, It was a well-written and thought-provoking piece. You raised many points that ring true and you wrote it from a perspective that many could not have — as a Black veteran who experienced the injustice of a ‘cop with a cause.’ I read your column three times just to make certain I didn't miss anything. Thank you for writing it, and than you, sir, for your service.”

**Second Place:** MANY ARE SURPRISED BY ABILITIES OF AMERI-

CA’S DISABLED by Alfonso Julián Camacho, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “Strong piece written from experience. While we have come so far in so many ways, there are others in which we still have millions of miles to go.”

**Third Place:** 10 Thanksgivings by Sarah Squires, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. “Wow. Had to be a tough column to write, and relive. Your Kong sounds like the kind of a guy who enjoyed making a difference in the lives of others ... including yours.”

**Honorable Mention:** Bounty of Mother's Day by Sarah Squires, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. “Lots of memories shared. Glad you've still got your Mom. I can appreciate the fishing for supper story, but I was about 9 and we were blessed with a garden to finish out the meal.”

**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-11,999**

**First Place:** Silent no more: #Me-Too by Amy Graham-McCarty, Commercial-News, Danville, Illinois. “An incredibly courageous personal statement about an issue that affects everyone, one way or another. All the more courageous for taking a principled stand against a cavalier column by a nationally syndicated writer.”

**Second Place:** Musing on Miss Jane by Joann Ware, The News-Gazette, Lexington, Virginia. “Powerful human story connecting past

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and present. So well told, with authentic emotional strength.”

**Third Place:** Journalism 101, standards of conduct, and 'The Yellow Kid' by Meredith Jordan, Port Townsend (Washington) and Jefferson County Leader. “Whining local politicians should be called out when they pull stunts like this. Did you make them uncomfortable? Good, that's because you were doing your job! Great job making your point and explaining the background of what transpired.”

**Honorable Mention:** Google deal won't save journalism by Dave Price, The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California. “Good job explaining, analyzing and taking a clear stand, which might not be popular with the powers that be, on an important issue.”

### Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 12,000 or more

**First Place:** The Original Sin That Led To an Anxious Generation by John Nagy, The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina. “Nagy frames this thoughtfully-written column as a confessional in which he acknowledges his own guilt in contributing to ‘The Original Sin that Led to An Anxious Generation,’ that is, giving in 2012 his then 12-year-old daughter with a cell phone, a device he did not own until he was in his 30s. Nagy shares how, in reading Jonathon Haidt’s The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness, he realized that he and many other parents at that time gave their children phones out of fear. Phones were a way for parents and kids to stay in constant touch with each other, for parents to confirm—instantly—that their children were safe from school shooters and other random acts of violence. The deception, Nagy notes, was and is that the phones themselves linked children to forces equally dangerous and more insidious. Nagy’s conversational tone and his focused attention on parenting invites readers to join him in an introspective examination of today’s connected world and how it has affected younger generations.”

**Second Place:** Rolling Through Park Cities by Sarah Hodges, Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas. “Sarah Hodges packs a lot of information in her short account of riding a local bus. After noting the price of a ticket (\$2.50) and the \$12.7 million in support from two local districts, Hodges wondered what kind of service taxpayers were receiving from the one bus route running through the two districts. So she packed up her kids and decided to find out. In “Rolling through the Park Cities on Bus 237,” Hodges recounts her observations, experiences with the schedule and app, and the difference weather can make. Clear, concise writing, in-person reporting, and attention to details make this short column stand out.”

**Third Place:** Homeless student

finds home at school by Nick Hytrek, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “Nick Hytrek spotlights a high school senior who has had multiple roofs over her head the past several years — none of which have been her home. In ‘Homeless student finds home at school,’ Hytrek describes the student’s journey from living in a home with two parents and a sibling to her mother’s leaving, then living with relatives or friends or in a series of hotel rooms with her father and sibling. Through it all, the student found a home at school, joined the school’s chapter of Educators Rising, and has earned scholarships to help her become a teacher herself. For the most part, Hytrek steps back and lets readers hear the student’s story through her own words and those of a school counselor, adding weight to this look at a different kind of homelessness and of the inner resiliency one student developed along the way.”

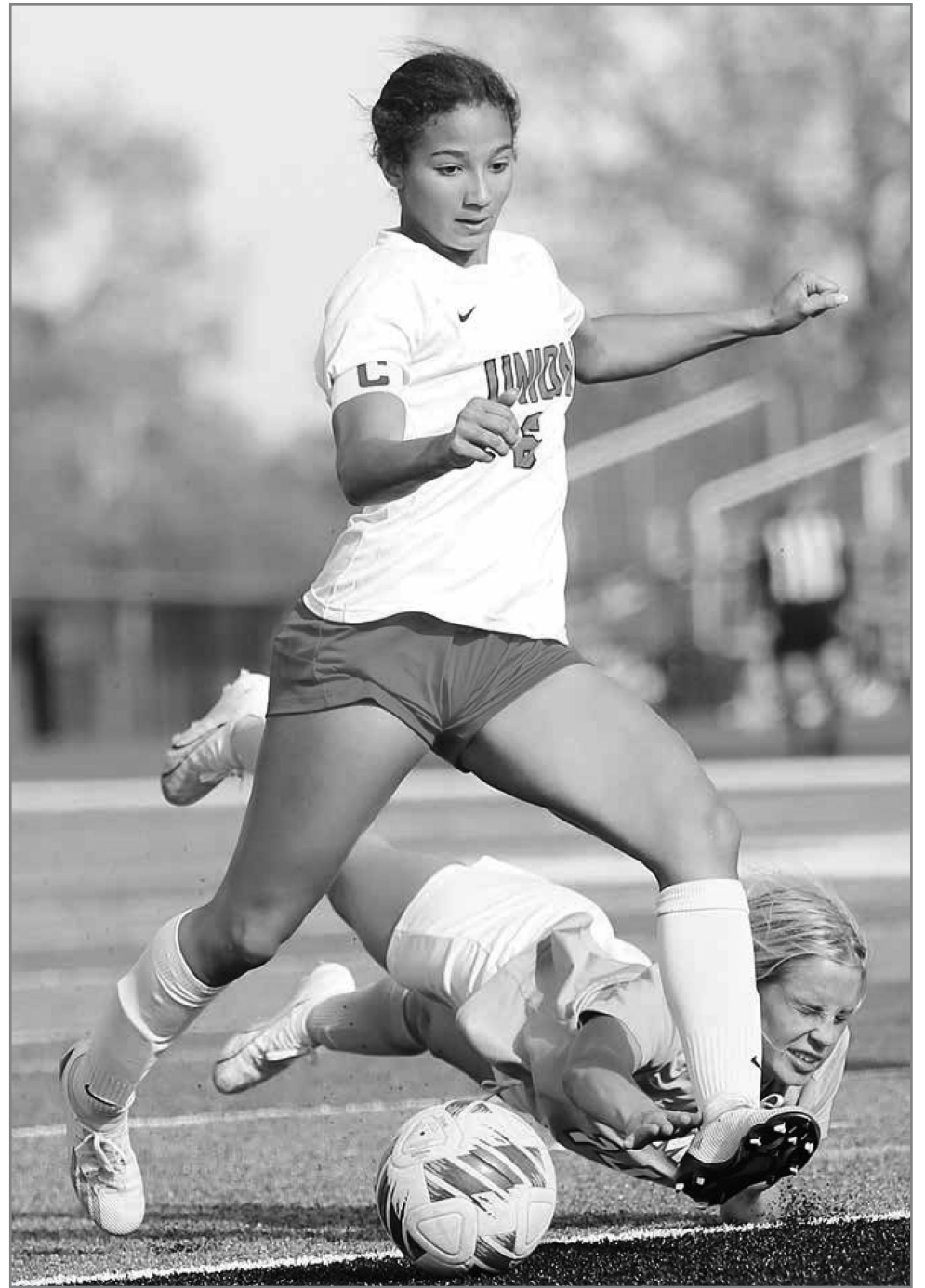
**Honorable Mention:** What President Joe Biden Told Me by Mark Segal, Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) Gay News. “Mark Segal shares how a chance comment during a short meeting with former President Biden following the opening of an iconic visitor center has given him pause. Segal, who as an 18-year-old in 1969 was present when police ‘barged in’ to the Stonewall Inn and who is one of only a few remaining witnesses to the events of that night and of the next few days, spoke last year at the opening of the Stonewall National Monument Visitor Center in New York City. In ‘What President Joe Biden told me,’ Segal recounts how after the ceremony, he spoke briefly with the former president who hugged him and then said five words that stunned him: ‘You could have been killed.’ At 18, Segal writes, it had not occurred to him that he might die during those events. Fifty-five years later? Segal says he needs time to process the thought. Segal gives us all food for thought about our own mortality and about what we are doing in the meantime.”

### BEST SPORTS COLUMN Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000

**First Place:** Rita Shabram Missed One Game In 35 Years by Carrie Pitzer, Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska. “Heartwarming column about a son and his mom, who only missed one of his games and became a mom and grandmom to many in the community. I feel like I know Rita now. Great job.”

**Second Place:** Touch the line by Sonja Karp, News Letter Journal, New Castle, Wyoming. “Oh, the world of “suicide drills” on a basketball court. A conditioning drill. And a life lesson. Really well done column that winds up with the “life lesson” part.”

**Third Place:** Coach Feels Her Mom By Her Side by Carrie Pitzer,



**FIRST PLACE,** Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more  
Arron Hustead, Washington (Missouri) Missourian

**MAJOR PROBLEM:** Union forward Mya Minor wreaks havoc in the final third against Columbia, Ill., evading the best efforts of falling defender Ella Fromme, Monday during Blue Cat Cup play at Stierberger Stadium as she scores Union’s fourth goal of the match. Minor scored two goals and one assist in Union’s 5-4 victory.

Stanton (Nebraska) Register. “Emotional piece about a volleyball coach and her mom, and coping with her death while cherishing the memories. Nice touch, well done. Evoking emotions is so important. Clearly, the column does this.”

**Honorable Mention:** Recommended reading: Katie Ledecky’s book by Jody Michael, The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota. “Nice hometown column on Olympic swimmer Katie Ledecky and her family beginnings in North Dakota.”

### Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000 or more

**First Place:** 'For each other and our school' by Nick Hytrek, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “Well-told perspective on a high school basketball team’s first win in 114 games, bolstered by comments from team members.”

**Second Place:** Mountainside by Molly Absolon, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “I appreciate the research in this column about extreme sports and the possible psychological causes of

risk-taking in humans.”

**Third Place:** First Rodeo by Kyle Leverone, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “Fun personal story about trying mountain biking. Thankful that reading it did not require ‘eating dirt’ like the writer experienced.”

**Honorable Mention:** Converting a Pickleball Snob by Joey Asher, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “The third- and fourth-place columns had a similar theme: trying a new sport. Picking one partly came down to the mountain biking column being more adventurous than this pickleball column, but that should not be taken as a criticism of the pickleball column. Kudos to both writers for trying something new and writing about it!”

### EDITIONS - BEST HEADLINE WRITING Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000

**First Place:** The Ark, Best Headlines by Kevin Hessel & Ark staff, The Ark, Tiburon, California.



“Good strong headlines tell what the story is about and if it is worth reading. Period. The Ark did it best.”

**Second Place:** News Letter Journal by NLJ Staff, News Letter Journal, New Castle, Wyoming. “Local ballot errors: After the recent nationwide controversy, I definitely wanted to read this story. The Journal didn't shy away from this with a nice bold headline.”

**Third Place:** Nursery to Nursing, Money Trees by Jonathan Gallardo, Cassia Catterall, Gillette (Wyoming) News Record. “Nursery to nursing school - good headline for a feel good story.”

**Honorable Mention:** Diversion: Mark Cohen by Mark Cohen, The Mountain-Ear, Nederland, Colorado. “hotdog fight and a paring knife - no one can say it isn't catchy.”

**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more**

**First Place:** Riverton Ranger headline writing by Staff, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. “As an aside, you have a really nice layout and presentation ... I loved ‘Clear as mud’ and it fit the story well. While you didn't note, I took your ‘Race against nature’ as an entry and worked well. Great art.”

**Second Place:** Don't be koi by Brian Freiburger, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “Cute and a best headline qualifier if I ever read one!”

**Third Place:** Best headline writing, May 25 and Nov. 2 by Zack Aldrich, Brian Robitaille, Lynley Price, Debi Hardy, Portland (Maine) Press Herald. “Shortstop Showman was catchy, and told about his position and abilities at the same time. The play of the term ‘vital signs’ in the campaign signs story was catchy ... and I caught it!”

**Honorable Mention:** Artful justice by Geoffrey Plant, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Give 'em hell, Dickie! Cute head.”

**EDITIONS - BEST LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE**  
**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000**

**First Place:** Best Local News by Staff, Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. “Just best because it had a good variety. Great election coverage.”

**Second Place:** Best Local News Coverage by Lahontan Valley News, Lahontan Valley News & Fallon (Nevada) Eagle Standard. “Good local coverage, winner just had a little more.”

**Third Place TIE:** 5-21-24; 11-12-24 by Southwest Ledger staff, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “Smaller paper, but had lots of local photos”

**Third Place TIE:** May 1, Nov. 27 by Staff, The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota. “smaller paper, but had lots of local coverage, local photos including spot news.”

**Honorable Mention:** BestLocal News coverage - May 8, Nov by Staff, Cedar County News, Harting-

ton, Nebraska. “Top four were all very close.”

**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999**

**First Place:** May 21 2024 Edition by Staff, Gillette (Wyoming) News Record. “This is a BEAUTIFUL paper. Neat, without feeling empty, dense without feeling busy. And your content seems to capture the sense of locality and community very well. Five stars.”

**Second Place:** Riverton Ranger, local news coverage by Sarah Squires, Marit Gookin, Austin Beck-Doss, Carl Cote, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. “Your paper could get an award just for the aesthetic flow alone, whoever does your layout, kudos - too many papers nowadays are busy with too much visual noise, I appreciate your formatting. I appreciate your content's variety, as well as the pacing of the issues you've put together. Good work.”

**Third Place:** Columbia Gorge News by Staff, Columbia Gorge News, Hood River, Oregon. “I appreciate the spirit your paper brings - the pacing and variety of content really do bring a sense of identity to the paper, and a sense of community to the reader. Excellent work!”

**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more**

**First Place:** Sioux City Journal by Staff, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “This publication looks engaged in their community and it shows through their writing.”

**Second Place:** Idaho Mountain Express by Greg Foley, Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, Idaho. “Diversity of stories shows interest in the community that is covered here.”

**Third Place:** Local News, Jackson Hole News&Guide by Staff, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “Imagery and stories capture the essence of the community.”

**Honorable Mention:** In the know: Jefferson, Orange and Hardin county coverage by The Examiner, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “The diversity of coverage is outstanding.”

**EDITIONS - BEST USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS**

**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000**

**First Place:** The Magnolia News by Dave Petraglia, The Magnolia News, Green Cove Springs, Florida. “GREAT OVERALL USE OF PHOTOS.”

**Second Place:** North Scott Press by Staff, Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press. “Strong use of photos on all pages.”

**Third Place:** Best use of photos by Staff, The Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin. “This paper uses photos well throughout the editions.”

**Honorable Mention:** Antelope County News Local Photos by Staff, Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska. “Well done!”

# Fredericksburg Standard

## Radio Post

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Wednesday, April 10, 2024

A top Texas Weekly Newspaper for a top Texas Town.  
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Billies track athletes place third in district, advance to area round  
► A/B14

Fredericksburg Farmer's Market opens for 2024 spring season  
► D1

Supporter makes half-million dollar commitment to FUSD Education Foundation  
► C7

Tickets for FTC's 'Sweet Delilah's Swim Club' on sale now  
► C16



**BUSINESS**  
Methodist | Hill Country CEO reflects on first year after hospital buy  
► A/B6

Good Samaritan Center will honor two at May event  
► A/B7

**COMMENTARY**  
Mike Barr looks back at the family history of the man destined to lead the greatest Navy on earth.  
► D3

ECLIPSE SPOTLIGHT



Mark Ward, an astrophotographer and archeoastronomy expert, had his lenses pointed skyward on Monday when the Total Solar Eclipse was witnessed over Gillespie County in the path of totality. Ward's corona shot shows the moment of full totality when the moon passed in front of the sun.



Visitors came to experience the eclipse from atop Enchanted Rock. Doug and Jo Somerholm traveled from Alaska to see the eclipse with friends Tim and Tammi Jessen, who live in Brown County, Texas. See more photos inside. — Standard-Radio Post/A. Avila



Bill Nye, The Science Guy, led a group of Planetary Society stargazers at The Lodge.

FREDERICKSBURG

## Historic low rainfall strains city's aquifer levels

Conservation efforts alleviate some, but future needs unmet

By Christine Granados  
Standard-Radio Post reporter

The director of public works and utilities for the City of Fredericksburg and the general manager of the Hill Country Underground Water Conservation District delivered some hard truths to council members at last Tuesday's regular meeting about the area's rainfall averages and water supply.

"Here's the 10-year historic rainfall average," said Kris Kneese, Director of Public Works and Utilities, referencing the chart accompanying this article. "Seven out of the last 10 years have been, unfortunately, below average. Not just by an inch or two below but eight to nine. In 2022, it was 15 inches below average."

Kneese also said the trendlines that measure the rain-water recharge of the city's two aquifers — dipped into by the Knauth and Old San Antonio Road wells — are unfortunate.

"Over the last eight to nine years, we've never quite rebounded from the previous year, so that trendline continues to fall," Kneese said during his presentation of the city's Water Conservation Plan.

COUNCIL ► A/B4

GILLESPIE COUNTY

## Commissioners receive report on eclipse week

Planning contributes to well-run, organized event, Olfers says

By Ken Esten Cooke  
Standard-Radio Post publisher

Emergency Management Coordinator Justin Calhoun said while the Total Solar Eclipse didn't bring the numbers that were anticipated, the event went well from an emergency management and preparation standpoint.

"At the EOC (Emergency Operations Center), we had representatives from the sheriff's office, police department, the Texas Division of Emergency Management, the amateur radio operators, Texas Forest Service, City of Fredericksburg Public Works department, South Texas Regional Advisory Council, Gillespie County Communications and a Gillespie County commissioner," Calhoun said. "I think it went pretty well."

Calhoun thanked the county I.T. Department for setting up internet access, televisions

COUNTY ► A/B4

Out of this world

Crowds not what anticipated, but downtown saw lots  
By Ken Esten Cooke  
Standard-Radio Post publisher

Hundreds take in eclipse at Enchanted Rock  
By Alex Avila  
Standard-Radio Post contributor

Science nerds celebrate eclipse with Bill Nye  
By Christine Granados  
Standard-Radio Post reporter

Though crowds did not come near expectations, the Great North American Eclipse had a parade-like feel and atmosphere as thousands of stargazers made their way to Marktplatz Monday to view the eclipse.

Crowd estimates judged by software used by the Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau will take several days to report. Yet, no one thought crowds were anywhere near the maximum 100,000 forecast by various entities. A weeks-long forecast of cloud cover could have been responsible for the lack of giant crowds.

MARKTPLATZ ► A/B9

Late cancellations due to overcast weather did little to affect the crowd numbers at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, located 15 miles north of Fredericksburg. Reservations reopened a couple of days before the eagerly anticipated eclipse on April 8, surprising many late visitors who jumped at the chance to catch this rare celestial event from atop what many visitors affectionately call, "The Rock."

As the eclipse reached its climax on Monday afternoon, a brief parting of the clouds elicited an enthusiastic roar from spectators atop Enchanted Rock.

E-ROCK ► A/B13

Over 850 self-proclaimed science nerds swarmed Fredericksburg for the Planetary Society's Eclipse O-Rama on Monday, April 8 to rub elbows with the likes of Bill Nye, the Science Guy, Science Bob, astrophysicists, astronomers, meteorologists and YouTubeers, but the biggest draw was the Sun.

It did not disappoint.

After a countdown to the start of totality, clouds parted for a few seconds and gave the audience of over 800 people, at Country Inn Cottages, a peek of the start of a total eclipse.

Sun worshippers cheered and

BILL NYE ► A/B9



Crowds planted lawn chairs and blankets on nearly every square foot of grass at Marktplatz to witness the Great North American Eclipse on Monday. — Standard-Radio Post/Ken Esten Cooke

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**FIRST PLACE,** Best Front Page Design, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999  
Ken Esten Cooke, Fredericksburg (Texas) Standard-Radio Post

**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more**

**First Place:** Best use of photographs, Jackson Hole News&Guide by Staff, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “Excellent work in providing the photos for the major Teton Pass stories. Beyond the pages and pages of Teton Pass, very nice portrait photos presented on news, feature and special pages. Great work in a really challenging category.”

**Second Place:** Best Use of Photographs, Wyoming Tribune Eagle by WTE staff, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “Wow. The ro-deo photos are breathtaking. They capture action and emotion at the same time. These are great photos! Terrific use of photos and graphics throughout these pages.”

**Third Place:** Riverton Ranger use of photos by Staff, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. “Nice balloon photos and display. Terrific sports photos by Carl Cote. Nicely done!”

**Honorable Mention:** Best Use of Photographs by Staff, The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois. “Good use of photos throughout all the pages.”

**BEST EDITORIAL**  
**Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000**

**First Place:** Time for the City to



move beyond Bella Vino by Angela Kuper Copeland, The Paper, Morganton, North Carolina. “Wonderful writing, well-laid out position taking on officials that just don't ‘get it.’”

**Second Place:** City should skip acting on proposal by Roger Estlack, Clarendon (Texas) Enterprise. “Well-written defense of what is likely to be an unpopular opinion.”

**Third Place:** ‘Cruel Optimism’ Holds Back Meaningful Change by Reed Anfinson, Grant County Herald, Elbow Lake, Minnesota. “Exceptional writing and structure. Lays out the argument and solutions in a logical, thoughtful fashion.”

**Honorable Mention:** Is team building better in the mountains? by Carl Aiello, Mid Hudson Times, Newburgh, New York. “Wonderfully done. The paper makes its point with well-documented facts, and proposes what should be done.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-3,999**

**First Place:** Where is the justice?; If he lied by Staff written editorials, Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster, Rosenberg, Texas. “Identifying and taking on wrongdoing in local government is at the heart of community journalism. These editorials did just that.”

**Second Place:** Gov. Newsom: Trading free press for monopoly money by Laura Rearwin Ward, Ojai (California) Valley News. “Nice job calling out the governor for selling out our profession.”

**Third Place:** Editorial by Matt Adelman, Douglas (Wyoming) Budget. “Tough position to be in in a gun-friendly state. But, the editorial addressed the concerns and recognized the benefits of the compromise solution.”

**Honorable Mention:** Mail processing plan should be scrapped by Steve Ranson, Lahontan Valley News & Fallon (Nevada) Eagle Standard. “Addresses an important issue facing our industry and basic service to our customer. Nice recap at end of editorial.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 4,000-5,999**

**First Place:** Unveiling Discrepancies - Editorial - Rockwall.pdf by Kent Miller, Rockwall County Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas. “Combines decent information with description of issue and a call to action.”

**Second Place:** You work for us by Sarah Squires, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. “Honestly not a great entry. Tells the tale of a citizen removed from a meeting, but says nothing about her behavior that led to it.”

**Third Place:** Efficiency or over-reach? by Sarah Squires, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. “It would have helped if the news piece that the editorial was referring to was included in the letter sent. The editorial's tone reads like a rant more than a reasoned response to a city action.”

**Honorable Mention:** My family loves the county fair by Michelle Nedved, Newport (Washington) Miner/Gem State Miner. “Light, fun, and promotes a community asset. Not as heavy or deep as other submissions, but better written than most.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999**

**First Place:** Protesters by Ed Smith, The News-Gazette, Lexington, Virginia. “The publication doesn't shy away from controversy and deftly navigates the area between extremes to give a reasonable and balanced view.”

**Second Place:** One Man's Trash Is Another Man's Trash by Heather Solomon, Moonshine Ink, Truckee, California. “Some things just need saying. This succinct, straight to the point rant is one of them.”

**Third Place:** North Manitou Access by Alan Campbell, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “This is what the op-ed page is for. hope the issue has been resolved.”

**Honorable Mention:** A Teen’s Perspective On The World by Kaya Siig, Moonshine Ink, Truckee, California. “Wise words, particularly in that final graf.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000-14,999**

**First Place:** It's time to bring back in-person council meetings by Griffin Limerick, Hyattsville (Maryland) Life & Times. “Even though the headline, ‘It’s time to bring back in-person council meetings,’ tells readers the topic of Griffin Limerick’s editorial up front, he doesn’t begin by listing his reasons and making demands for returning to in-person meetings after four years of virtual ones. Rather, he invites readers of the Hyattsville Life & Times to consider a particular moment shortly after the beginning of the most recent virtual council meeting. Deftly he sets the scene in terms worthy of any of several dystopian films, describing “disembodied voices, missing microphones, and text messages declaring ‘Here’” during roll call, an “erratically” behaving Zoom camera during the pledge of allegiance, and an empty silence when the public is invited to address the council. Only when readers are hooked does Limerick build his case by recounting the projects that have been passed or completed without public input—including a middle school built by the county but without city involvement—during the previous four years, noting the promised but not delivered technology that would enhance virtual meetings, and pointing out that surrounding communities have reinstated in-person meetings. Then he switches gears, acknowledging that virtual meetings have their virtues and proposing a couple of compromises before describing in poignant detail moments of physical connection

during the last in-person meeting, held in 2020. Limerick threads dates and figures and email responses from officials through his narrative, and he offers solid reasons for a return to in-person meetings. But Limerick’s way with words and his finesse in presenting his case make this an editorial worth studying.”

**Second Place:** Déjà vu by Jeremy Rodriguez, Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) Gay News. “Usually editorials explain a situation and take a stand on how that situation should be addressed. Strong editorials back that explanation and stance with facts, research of various types, interviews with pertinent people, and a reasoned course of action. But occasionally an editorial simply acknowledges the feelings of its readership in response to an event. Jeremy Rodriguez’s “Déjà vu,” written for the Philadelphia Gay News and appearing on November 6, 2024, is one such editorial. Rodriguez recaps the presidential elections of 2016, 2020, and 2024—the day before this editorial appeared. He expresses fears for what the future might hold. But most important, Rodriguez notes that there is a time to act but there also is a time to process emotions. Rodriguez acknowledges his need to process his grief, and he makes sure his readers know it is OK to take time to grieve, too. This, too, is an important editorial statement.”

**Third Place:** Billionaires plotting takeover of Texas House by Don Dodd, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “In “Billionaires plotting takeover of Texas House”, Don J. Dodd begins by noting the out-of-state mega-contributions being made in support of candidates for Texas offices. At least one of those candidates, however, seems uninterested in providing voters with information about himself. Dodd, writing for The Examiner, then speculates on what the ultimate game plan is—could it be that it doesn’t matter who gets elected as long as it isn’t the current incumbent? Is it possible — gasp! — that a candidate who succeeds in ousting the current incumbent might be beholden to the ones who paid to put him there? Say it isn’t so! Dodd raises important questions and refers to other articles and editorials he has written that bolster claims made in this editorial. Combined with his high-energy writing style, Dodd’s editorial packs a serious punch.”

**Daily Division**

**First Place:** Shine more light on WITCC settlement by Dave Dreeszen, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “An editorial is the perfect place for a publication to call out a local official for failing to engage with the public (especially the media). This well-written editorial even lays out the questions reporters would like to ask the college president.”

**Second Place:** Regardless of election outcome, lawmakers need to do

their jobs by Brian Martin and WTE Editorial Board, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “This editorial stands out because of the details included to support the ultimate premise. It leans heavily on facts, quotes and other reporting to successfully make its point.”

**Third Place:** Not FAIR: Naive response insufficient to address racial tensions of SACS, society by Jeff Kovaleski, The Journal Gazette, Fort Wayne, Indiana. “People like to say that opinion pieces need nuance to hit the mark. This editorial writer understands that's not always true. Nice work meeting the issue head-on.”

**Honorable Mention:** Education, not omission, is the best way to protect our kids by Brian Martin and WTE Editorial Board, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “Addressing the local angle of a national issue, especially by taking a stance in an editorial, can be tricky, but it's well done here.”

**BEST EDITORIAL PAGE(S)**

**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000**

**First Place:** Best editorial pages by Staff, The Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin. “This is what a good community newspaper should do -- local editorials, local cartoons, good guest columns, letters to the editor, clean format.”

**Second Place:** Best Editorial Page by Staff, The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois. “Lots of voices -- including the cartoon. Nicely done.”

**Third Place:** Opinion pages by Molly McRoberts, Potter County News, Gettysburg, South Dakota. “nice personal feel. love the local cartoon effort.”

**Honorable Mention:** Best Editorial Pages by Staff, Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. “Lots of local commentary -- what makes a paper stay at the heart of its community.”

**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more**

**First Place:** Best Editorial Pages by John Nagy, David Woronoff, The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina. “The mix of local, regional and other columnists, plus good local editorials make this Opinion Page stand out. Excellent writing, well-laid out. Overall quality.”

**Second Place:** Best Editorial Pages, Wyoming Tribune Eagle by Brian Martin, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “Some of the better writing on Opinion Pages. Carmon's column is exceptional and the balance is overall very good. Solid work.”

**Third Place:** Sioux City Journal by Bruce Miller, Dave Dreeszen, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “The writing is good and the layout exceptional. Overall quality work.”

**Honorable Mention:** Journal Gazette embraces a diversity of topics and thoughts by Fred McKissack, Jeff Kovaleski, Keith Elchert, The



Journal Gazette, Fort Wayne, Indiana. “The editorial writing is very good.”

**BEST ORIGINAL EDITORIAL CARTOON**  
**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000**

**First Place:** Education for County Commissioners by Jim Cox, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “Could this cartoon not be fitting in many other areas of the country? Great entry.”

**Second Place:** How Do You Feel About Surveys? by Clay Jones, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “This cartoon said so much without saying anything at all. Surveys are around every corner and literally "lurk" just beyond everyone's front door.”

**Third Place:** Kiamichi River by Jim Cox, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “What a way to bring a story to life in a different way with a twist. Great details right down to the colors.”

**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more**

**First Place:** DOING RIGHT BY NATIVE AMERICANS by Carla Labto, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “I gave this entry the edge in all categories. Tops in creativity and overall appearance.”

**Second Place:** GUN VIOLENCE STEALS YOUNG AMERICANS’ FUTURES AND DREAMS by Carla Labto, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “This was tops in overall impact.”

**Third Place:** The Truckee Way by Mike English, Moonshine Ink, Truckee, California. “Very relevant to that community.”

**Honorable Mention:** UNSELFISH SOCCER SQUAD TAKES ONE FOR THE TEAM by Robert Navarro, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “Good art, just edged out by others”

**FOI - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**  
**Daily & Non-daily Division**

**First Place:** Town of Taos ‘unlawfully withholding public records’ by Geoffrey Plant, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “The words "Corollary Benefits" hit me just right, not sure why. Anyhow, excellent series of articles, pertinent to the category and important for the community. Professional work.”

**Second Place** TIE: Ranger FOI by Sarah Squires, Marit Gookin, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. “With the exception of an opening essay, which was a bit aggressive for my tastes, this was a darn near perfect series. Good work was done in preparation, you called out an important issue and backed it up with pertinent data, and you gave a voice to citizens watching over government malpractice. Stellar work.”

**Second Place** TIE: Too cool for comfort by Caitlin Yamada, Sioux

City (Iowa) Journal. “This is excellent work, and a demonstration of exemplary journalism. I'm biased, but I wish there were more of the details you shared in the context for judging section of your entry in the body of the article itself to illustrate how the story is pertinent to FOI. It's a pretty good sign my only criticism of the story is ‘I wish there were more of it!’”

**Third Place:** EPA Contradicts Mayors About Asbestos Grants by Gordon Hopkins, Fairbury (Nebraska) Journal-News. “Great work with the story in general and the asbestos piece in specific, bonus points for good followups.”

**GENERAL EXCELLENCE**  
**Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000**

**First Place:** General Excellence by Staff, The Paper, Morganton, North Carolina. “In one of the toughest general excellence competitions this judge has been involved with, your publication came out on top this year as my clear No. 1. The front pages were all excellent; the design of this paper is ultra crisp and easy to read/see/digest with eyes. Robust local news coverage that was uplifted by smart, pert writing. Very good use of photos; deep opinion content; great sports and astute use of photographs. Ads and public notices rounded out a superb newspaper. Be proud; y'all No. 1 in my judging. Cheers!!”

**Second Place:** The Ark, General Excellence by Kevin Hessel & Ark staff, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “This paper is a very crisp, colorful and professional publication I would expect from this geographic area (which I am very familiar with). The news writing was elite, front page a bit 'busy' but well done. Excellent advertising, deep local news coverage, awesome entertainment section. Really solid use of photos. Negatives that cost you first place include NO - yes NO - sports content!!! And a nearly total ignoring of an opinion page. Headlines across the pages were too long, too. A great job by all, but those elements kept you from top spot. Thank you.”

**Third Place:** April 24, May 1, Nov. 27 by Staff, The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota. “This North Dakota community paper had a very nicely organized, crisp and powerful front page combined with good headlines, nice writing and a robust opinion page. Sports was well organized; good use of clear fonts and had a nice mix of community/family news tidbits. Liked the placement of public notices in one area for ease. Good stuff and 3rd place in a challenging category IMO. Thank you.”

**Honorable Mention:** Antelope County News General Excellence by Staff, Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska. “This is a very thorough local community newspaper with many really solid elements: the news and sports writing were very

good; front pages were structured nicely; good use of photos - notably sports; the sports coverage was robust, well done and had most powerful photos. Dings taking you down to 4th place included much smaller opinion page than higher placing papers and the chaotic placement of public notices & other ads seemingly plopped where was an open hole. Still top 4 in tough class. Thank you.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999**

**First Place:** Staff, Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press. “Appealing design from front to back, along with tons of local, interesting and well-written news. Colorful, well-built ads add to the appeal.”

**Second Place:** Staff, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. “Very attractive front pages. I hope you won something in that category. In-depth news and local features along with fun design and overall good look made this a very tough category to judge.”

**Third Place:** Matt Adelman, Cindy Stimson, staff, Douglas (Wyoming) Budget. “In a very tough category, I wish we could have had three 1st-place winners. Your clean (and sometimes fun) design and lots of relevant local news helped your paper stand out. Great work!”

**Honorable Mention:** Staff, Columbia Gorge News, Hood River, Oregon. “There was so much great competition in this category. One thing that stood out in your paper is the extensive sports coverage, which some otherwise top choices lacked. Overall a great paper, great job!”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999**

**First Place:** Staff, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “This newspaper has it all. Excellent mix of news, photography, strong layout and design, sports, advertising and everything in between. I was especially intrigued by the extensive coverage of the death of the bear. A sign of a solid newspaper is seeing readers engaged through letters and the Reader's Respond poll. This entire publication is a STRONG example of solid community journalism. Beautifully done and well deserved honor!”

**Second Place:** Staff, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “A close second to the top newspaper. The Taos News also is a strong community newspaper with lots of solid coverage throughout the paper. The writing is solid as is the photography. I love the use of large photos.”

**Third Place:** Staff, The News-Gazette, Lexington, Virginia. “This is a solid newspaper with lots of great content, including stories and photos. There is a nice variety throughout the editions. Readers should be proud of this local news source.”

**Honorable Mention:** Sharon O'Malley, College Park (Maryland) Here & Now. “What a great newspa-

per for journalism students to cut their teeth in reporting. With what is displayed in this newspaper, journalism is in good hands for future generations!”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more**

**First Place:** Greg Foley, Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, Idaho. “Excellent reporting, focused editorials with responsive letters and columns, stimulating and relevant photos, ads with focused messages in colorful and revealing graphic layout, good classifieds . . . Just the best!”

**Second Place:** PGN Staff, Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) Gay News. “Advocacy Journalism is tough to judge here. However, it’s professionally crafted with excellent writing, heavily personalized for readers’ engagement. Exceptional advertising display. Missing focused editorial section; limited dominant photos. However, opinion pieces, including editorial (the paper’s view) were issue-focused and written with force! Good coverage of democrats’ president campaign stops in community.”

**Third Place:** Staff, The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina. “Graphically appealing layout with many applicable story-related photos; many other photos of the stand-and-grin variety and photo montages for gatherings and events. Good opinion pages; the two staff editorials tended toward story telling rather than critiques of current news events. Ads were well designed and graphically appealing. Long six-column format is a challenge for readers: down-and-up repeated. Lots of gray type.”

**Daily Division**

**First Place:** WTE staff, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “This publication is meaty in a way that is rarely seen in this day and age. While it could be considered a negative to take up some space with AP and other content, in this case, it feels more like a supplement than a replacement for local content, which this paper is also loaded with.”

**Second Place:** Staff, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “This publication had consistently strong layout, including some instances of creative ways of bringing straight facts to the readers.”

**Third Place:** Staff, Gillette (Wyoming) News Record. “A strong community based paper that is no doubt both essential and enjoyable for its readers.”

**GENERAL EXCELLENCE, COLLEGE DIVISION**  
**Daily & Non-daily Division**

**First Place:** The Sun Staff, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “The Southwestern College Sun delivers a truly exceptional example of student journalism. Its bold, watchdog-style reporting stands out covering institutional failures, internal corrup-



tion, AI bots defrauding FAFSA, and high-impact profiles such as the heroic story of Angelina Stuart. It offers a strong blend of investigative journalism, in-depth community engagement, and powerful storytelling. The FSFA story was months ahead of many national outlets. Design-wise, the Sun is professional and energetic, with bold visual hierarchies, creative use of pull quotes and strong headlines. The photography and layout support the stories well. Coverage is diverse and culturally sensitive, featuring bilingual content, stories of cross-border education, and Native American events. It offers rich community relevance and positions itself as a voice for students and faculty alike. This is student journalism operating at a professional level, fearless, deeply reported, and beautifully presented.”

**Second Place:** Brisa Odenthal, editor-in-chief, Signpost, (Weber State University). “The Signpost presents a well-executed, polished student newspaper with strong editorial standards. Its April 16 issue stood out for its investigative piece on cold cases in Utah, a sensitive, nuanced, and informative feature with compelling quotes, data visualizations, and human interest at its core. While its design is clean and consistent, it leans more conventional and subdued in visual tone. The November 12 issue is primarily a graduation list edition, which, while useful for the campus audience, offers little journalistic depth. The Nov. 5 issue provides solid reporting on financial aid options, though it lacks the hard-hitting edge or community watchdog work seen in the Sun. The Signpost’s reporting is clear, accurate, and thoughtful, making it a reliable student news source. It would benefit from more original investigative reporting and a bit more risk-taking in its editorial scope to push it to the next level.”

**BEST OBITUARY TRIBUTE**  
**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000**  
**First Place:** Everlasting Impressions by Mark Ridolfi, Erin M. Gentz, Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press. “What stands out is the number of people Bill Tubbs influenced and helped.”  
**Second Place:** Clara Lou Gould, Longtime Mayor of Beacon, Dies at 97 by Jeff Simms, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “Well done. I felt I knew her.”  
**Third Place:** Warren Kukla by Tristan McGough, The Edgerton (Wisconsin) Reporter. “A portrait of a man I would have like to have known. no one can ask for more than that.”  
**Honorable Mention:** He was a powerhouse in school bus industry by Rick Bussler, Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. “Tribute to a man who kept going right up to the end.”

**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more**  
**First Place:** A BRIEF SHINING MOMENT by Natalia Plaza, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “What a wonderful tribute to a person who turned her life around only to have it ended way too soon. It was a story worth telling and a piece worth reading. Great work.”  
**Second Place:** Cowboy, guide Gap Pucci dead at 89 by Mark Huffman, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “This was good as it tells a real story about a very unique person. I felt the passion from Gap Pucci's life. Excellent work.”  
**Third Place:** C. Sherman Allen remembered for passion, service to community by Rachel Wagoner, Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio. “What a life well led. I wished I would have met him. Thanks for bringing his story to life.”  
**Honorable Mention:** Legacy.com's Best Obituary Tribute by Sherrie Geistweidt, Fredericksburg (Texas) Standard-Radio Post. “Very special tribute to a life ended way too soon. If your eyes are dry at the end of it you didn't get the message. Very well done.”

**MICHAEL KRAMER BEST PUBLIC NOTICE JOURNALISM AWARD**

PN

RC

Public Notice Resource Center

**Daily & Non-daily Division**  
**First Place:** Premature publication by Sarah Squires, Marit Gookin, Lander Journal, Riverton, Wyoming. “Excellent analysis of public notice issues and ensuring that they are done properly.”  
**Second Place:** Inadequate public notice regarding proposed new hotel tax by Tom Boney, Jr., The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina. “Good coverage and ensuring that notices are properly done.”  
**Third Place:** Belvedere will re-work second-unit incentive to comply with state laws by Kevin Hessel, Naomi Friedland, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Good that the material was published but the article doesn't mention that's the reason the problem was discovered and sent back to local government for revision.”

**NEWS AND OPINION ON PUBLIC CORRUPTION**  
**Daily & Non-daily Division**  
**First Place:** Tax administrator Jeremy Akins resigns, two tax dept. employees fired for manipulating valuations by Tomas Murawski, The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina. “This is an interesting and well-written piece! You balanced the two sides of the story very well; as far as feedback, I would note there are a couple of times the story mentioned someone's character -

quotes might reinforce those a little more objectively. But that's a slight criticism.”  
**Second Place:** Investigators link George to fake, racist online posts by Scott Reese Willey, Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster, Rosenberg, Texas. “I prefer this piece as a Public Corruption entry over an FOI entry, so I'll award it here instead of there. As mentioned, my only gripe is with the imprecision of the word fake, it's casual enough that it undermines an otherwise really well delivered story. Overall excellent work.”  
**Third Place:** 1-23 Audit uncovers issues in Payne County by Mike W. Ray, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “I really like the formatting of this piece, makes it more concise and detail oriented where it could otherwise be very confusing and subjective. Good content, this needed investigating”  
**Honorable Mention:** 3-5 Lawtonian pleads guilty by Mike W. Ray, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “Hopefully a piece like this will discourage future crime. Well reported, similar to the other piece I awarded, I enjoy the bulleted format, and your writers use it well.”

**NIE - EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT & CIVIC LITERACY**  
**Daily & Non-daily Division**  
**First Place:** Veterans Project by Tammy Witherspoon, The Eldon (Missouri) Advertiser. “WOW...incredible work, effort and initiative... every newspaper should mirror this publication.”  
**Second Place:** Democracy Day by Tammy Witherspoon, The Eldon (Missouri) Advertiser. “Great effort, work and program. Very informative. Other newspapers should mirror this program. Good job...”  
**Third Place:** Separate ≠ Equal: Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education by Jodi Pushkin, Stacy Rector, Tampa Bay Times, St. Petersburg, Florida. “Very, very informative publication. Readers and community should have learned much. Good job..”

**NIE - PARTNERSHIPS**  
**Daily & Non-daily Division**  
**First Place:** Buffalo/The Pemican by Staff/BHS students, The Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin. “This was an excellent initiative and required much work - every newspaper should see this and start their own page or pages.”  
**Second Place:** Join the drive to conserve more water in Pasco County! by Pasco County Utilities staff, Jodi Pushkin, Stacy Rector, Tampa Bay Times, St. Petersburg, Florida. “Congratulations on this excellent initiative- the project required a lot of work. It informed readers with quite a bit of detailed information.”

**BEST BREAKING NEWS PHOTO**  
**Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000**  
**First Place:** It’s a total solar-bration! - News Photo - Greenville.pdf by David Claybourn, Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas. “Great timing! You wonder what the folks in the plane were thinking.”  
**Second Place:** Hay bale fire by Rachel Miller, Henderson (Minnesota) Independent. “Nice crop! Photo conveys the action well of what was properly considered a routine job by firefighters.”  
**Third Place:** Westwin protesters disrupt Lawton City Council meeting by Mike W. Ray, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “Caught the moment, everyone's emotions worn on their faces.”  
**Honorable Mention:** Water Search by Carrie Pitzer, Knox County News, Bloomfield, Nebraska. “Well-framed image, with everyone focused on their job.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-9,999**  
**First Place:** Hope after the storm by Renee' Brich, Harlan (Iowa) News-Advertiser. “Powerful photo.”  
**Second Place:** Ice Jam by Carrie Pitzer, Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska. “Clear photo.”  
**Third Place:** NWS Issues Fire Weather Watch for SE Nebraska by Gordon Hopkins, Fairbury (Nebraska) Journal-News. “The imagery in this photo tells a story.”  
**Honorable Mention:** Tornado Damage by Ray Oswald, The Edgerton (Wisconsin) Reporter. “Photo shows a lot about the story.”

**Daily Division**  
**First Place:** Riverside flooding by Tim Hynds, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “This photo really captures the drama of this disaster.”  
**Second Place:** Meeting gets heated by Milo Gladstein, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “I can feel everyone's emotions in this photo.”  
**Third Place:** BNSF bridge explosion by Tim Hynds, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “Nicely done.”

**BEST FEATURE PHOTO**  
**Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000**  
**First Place:** Any which way you can by Stefanie Roth, News Letter Journal, New Castle, Wyoming. “Just a wonderful shot -- it's full of movement and thrilling on a visceral level, but it also piques the curiosity: How did this little rider wind up backwards??”  
**Second Place:** Frosty by Laura Gardner, Washburn Leader-News. “An image that's chilling but also full of warmth. I can't think of a better time of day or a better place from which to take this shot.”  
**Third Place:** Bois d'Arc - Feature Photo - Greenville by Laurie White King, Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas. “This photo is just dripping

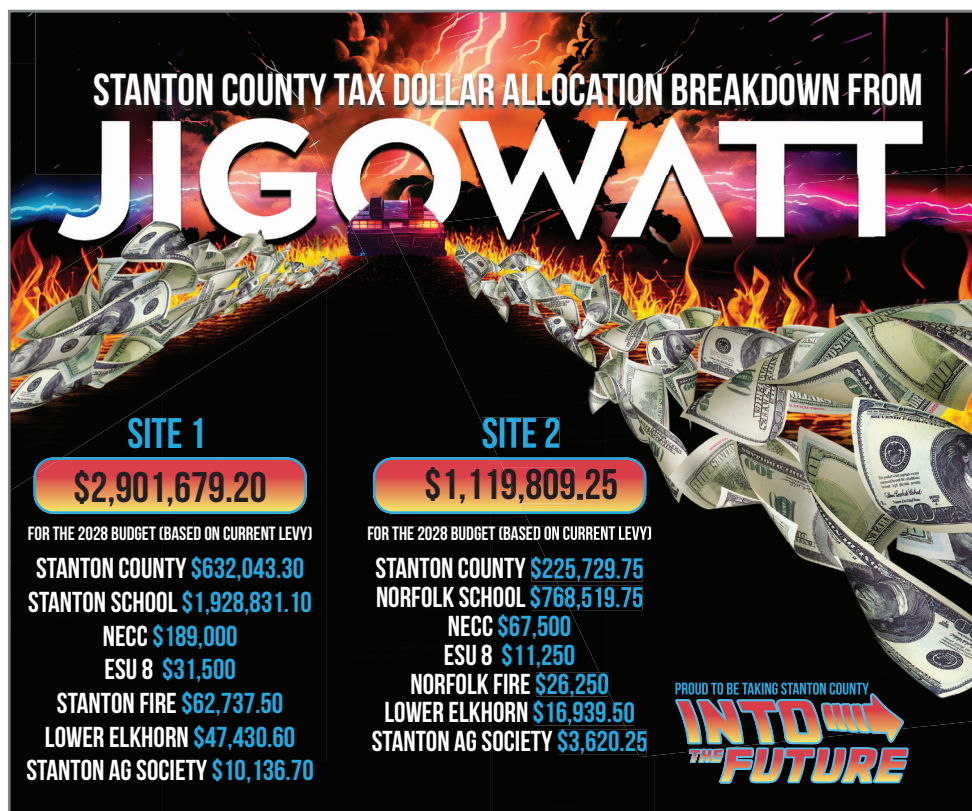












**FIRST PLACE,** Best Informational Graphic, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000, Angeliqe Boyer, Stanton (Nebraska) Register

try in hope and then horror as the Wilberg Mine disaster unfolded. The story brought it all back. That and the stricken postal worker were particularly strong entries.”

**Honorable Mention:** Nathan Wilson, Columbia Gorge News, Hood River, Oregon. “Well-written and well-researched. Very strong handle on complicated scientific matters. I would like to see the writer branch out to a wider variety of topics.”

### BEST FAMILY LIFE LIVING SECTION PAGES

#### Daily & Non-daily Division

**First Place:** ArkBeat by Kevin Hessel & Ark staff, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “This publication keeps locals in the know about what is happening in their community.”

**Second Place:** 2024Voice-Summer by The Miner Staff, Newport (Washington) Miner/Gem State Miner. “This publication has a lot of good informative information.”

**Third Place:** Siouxland Life by Staff, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “Imagery and stories make this a must pick up issue!”

**Honorable Mention:** Best Family Life / Living Section by Laura Douglass, The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina. “Contains a lot of good information and encompasses what the community is about.”

### BEST SPECIAL NEWS, SPORTS, NICHE, FEATURE SECTION OR EDITION

#### Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000

**First Place:** Hurricane Helene Special Section by Staff, The Paper, Morganton, North Carolina. “This special section shows the importance of a newspaper in a time of crisis. The amount of effort required by the staff to pull together all of these stories in difficult circumstances, all of which are of major value to the community is impressive. Major kudos to the entire staff and congratulations to Burke County, NC for having such

a fantastic, community-centered newspaper.”

**Second Place:** Best Special Section: Steele County Free Fair by Staff, Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. “Fantastic special section from top-to-bottom. The features are great, as well as the design. It's a tremendous product.”

**Third Place:** The Year in Review by Kevin Hessel & Ark staff, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Love the modern look of the design for this section and the creative way the staff recapped the year. Outstanding job.”

**Honorable Mention:** Centennial Farms by Cass County Reporter Staff, Cass County Reporter. “This is a special section that will be referenced and kept by the families mentioned for years to come. What a great way to preserve the history of this community.”

#### Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-9,999

**First Place:** ‘GOOD DAY TO BE AN INDIAN’ by Alexa Lima, Emily Esparza, Briana Nuñez, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “Superbly written with stunning photography & intelligent headings. Just an overall excellent piece—captures the event well along with the spirit of revival for the college's relationship to the Indigenous of the area. Just such a gorgeous work in totality.”

**Second Place:** Tradiciones by Paul Gutches, Ellen Miller-Goins, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Taken collectively, the series is more than impressive, offering such variety of subject matter along with stunning photographic work to make a cohesive effort of community excellence. Taken individually, each is worthy of awards.”

**Third Place:** Salute to Agriculture by Bulletin staff, The Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin. “The all-encompassing salute hits on all cylinders for exploring issues vital to agriculture, especially impressive was the

article on farmers' mental health. To pay homage to an industry and field many say is dying nationwide, this serves as a love letter to all things ag. Articles are engaging and photography is outstanding—to put the reader into a personal space with the people who provide economic, environmental & physical sustenance.”

**Honorable Mention:** Death of an icon: Grizzly 399 remembered by Staff, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “Such a beautifully written homage to an icon. The tenderness of language and experiences mesh so well with the heartfelt loss of 399—for those closest to her and her myriad fans. Eloquent pieces too describing her impact on both the ecology & economy -- such a multi-faceted & superb section. Of course, the photography is spectacular.”

#### Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more

**First Place:** Open Daily by Staff, The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina. “Impressive! A high-quality magazine in addition to your regular publication! I'm sure the readers and advertisers were thrilled to receive these each day.”

**Second Place:** Celebrating 48 LGBTQ+ Leaders by Jeremy Rodriguez, Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) Gay News. “Kudos for recognizing the hard work of so many who make an impact in your community.”

**Third Place:** Best SpecialNews-SportsNicheFeatsectionorEdition\_May2024\_20under40 by Park Cities People, Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas. “Great to see recognition for so many young people working with passion.”

**Honorable Mention:** Farm and Dairy Progress Vol. 2 June 20, 2024 by Tammy Reese, Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio. “Great stories of dreams of dairy farmers real-

ized with support from funding from lenders who understand their dreams and challenges.”

### BEST SPORTS SECTION/PAGE

#### Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000

**First Place:** Henderson Independent - Best Sports Section by Rachel Miller, Henderson (Minnesota) Independent. “Will someone please give Rachel Miller a day off? I count 11 stories and a handful of pictures in one week's sports section! Considering it is almost completely done by one person, this is spectacularly comprehensive and thorough coverage! Well done Rachel!”

**Second Place:** April 3, Sept. 25 by Jody Michael, The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota. “Jody Michael is a powerhouse, populating this colorful section with columns, content and photos. The appearance is crisp and colorful. Great job!”

**Third Place:** Grant County Herald Sports Pages by Sam Peterson, Mike Mallow, Grant County Herald, Elbow Lake, Minnesota. “Crisp and complete sports section with a wide range of coverage attractively presented.”

**Honorable Mention:** Best Sports Section by Staff, Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. “Crisp and professionally designed pages with a variety of professional sports coverage, great photos and attractive layout. Well done.”

#### Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-9,999

**First Place:** Standard Banner Best Sports Section by Dennis Barker, Jr., The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, Tennessee. “This is a great sports section. Writing is excellent and the photography and layout are also solid. This is something to look forward to each time published.”



**FIRST PLACE,** Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-2,999, Don Anderson, The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota

**Payton Hanisch of the Crosby Cubs celebrates after scoring the winning run during a game against Kenmare Post 64 on Sunday in Crosby.**



**Second Place:** May 12, 2024 issue; Nov. 7, 2024 issue by sports staff, Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster, Rosenberg, Texas. "This entry is solid in every way...writing, photography, lay-out...and would be something worth reading each time published. A great effort, a great publication."

**Third Place:** Jackson Hole News&Guide Sports section by Kyle Leverone, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. "One of the best entries and a pleasure to read. Appreciate the work and the overall effort. I would gladly read this and would look forward to it."

**Honorable Mention:** Best Sports Pages by Bob Sutton, John Adams, and staff, The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina. "Placing this one was easy. Very good coverage and well written. Would enjoy seeing this on a regular basis."

### Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more

**First Place:** Sioux City Journal by Ryan Timmerman, Logan Shanks, Dave Dreeszen, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. "Wide variety of coverage with local teams getting front page play."

**Second Place:** Best Sports Section by Jonathan Bym, The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina. "good local coverage, wide variety"

**Third Place:** Best Sports Section, Wyoming Tribune Eagle by Jeremiah Johnke and Matt Atencio, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. "Good section, but others seemed to have more local stories."

### SOCIAL MEDIA JOURNALISM

#### Daily & Non-daily Division

**First Place:** PinalCentral Instagram - Photo of the Week by Staff, Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch. "PinalCentral's "Photo of the Week" on Instagram is a simple but effective example of consistent community engagement. The recurring format encourages audience interaction and highlights local photographers, reinforcing a sense of place and participation. While the submission lacks depth or metrics, the effort is well-executed and shows an understanding of platform use. For future entries, including analytics or showcasing varied formats like reels or live content could strengthen the case. Still, this is a solid, community-minded approach deserving recognition."

### STORY/SERIES - BEST COVERAGE OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

#### Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000

**First Place:** Best Military Affairs

Coverage by Staff, Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. "'Shared Service' and AMVETS articles tell stories not often heard; backed with lots of supporting material on local folks who answered the call."

**Second Place:** Continuing a legacy of service by Hannah Romero, The Green River (Wyoming) Star. "Natasha Young's story and that of her family are fascinating. Terrific writing and storytelling."

**Third Place:** Striving to honor veterans, Honoring vets by Michael Alexander, KateLynn Slaamot, News Letter Journal, New Castle, Wyoming. "A nicely-prepared, well-presented set of stories on a World War II veteran and the effort to give him and thousands of others their due recognition."

**Honorable Mention:** 5-28 Military Hall of Fame by Debi DeSilver, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. "Any good war movie is not so much about war as it is about the people who are caught in it. Good stories about the soldiers are the same. This is a story about people readers might have met in church or on line at a supermarket without knowing their amazing stories."

### Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more

**First Place:** Tyndall Native Reaches New Heights In Army by Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan. "Well done! Encouraging for a young woman, or anyone for that matter, to be involved in the Armed Forces."

**Second Place:** Major Wilhelm Receives Bronze Star, Purple Heart by Mary (Galer) Herschelman, The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois. "Hero! Veterans are heroes with invisible capes!"

**Third Place:** Jeff LaCross by Alan Campbell, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. "Thank you veterans for our freedoms!"

**Honorable Mention:** Local Cancer Survivor is Named Grand Marshal in SFV Veterans Day Parade by Gabriel Arizon, San Fernando (California) Valley Sun. "Well done!"

### STORY-SERIES - BEST AGRICULTURAL STORY

**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000**  
**First Place:** Harvest '24: Inflated costs, deflated income by Sydney Caraballo, The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota. "Very detailed, well researched, a lot of moving parts to bring together. Excellent use of context to explain."

**Second Place:** Cultivating the preservation of farms and farming by Mark Brown, The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, Tennessee. "This sto-



**FIRST PLACE,** Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-4,999  
Dennis Barker, Jr., The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, Tennessee

Jefferson's Tristen Brooks (bottom) and Maury's Peyton Hager scrap for a loose ball during Thursday night's matchup.

ry tells of the development of these issues over time about a serious problem that replicates nearly anywhere that farming is important."

**Third Place:** The Perfect Storm by Jen Sieve-Hicks, The Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin. "Outstanding story that weaves a lot of different threads together in a coherent way. It shows how farmers tried to adapt and the challenges they still face from the fire."

**Honorable Mention:** Houck Eager To Learn More About The Field by Isaiah Atkins, The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois. "Great job using the story of an individual to illustrate the role of his board and his effect on ag policy."

### Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more

**First Place:** Meat producers frustrated by slaughterhouse backlogs by John O'Meara, The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine. "Great color from the farmers you interviewed for this story. The problem is clear enough, but hearing their voices gave this real immediacy."

**Second Place:** Disaster Declared by Brian Freiburger, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. "Solid story on state decision affecting the local farming industry. Good mix of local and state sources."

**Third Place:** UMaine potato breed edges out longtime favorites by John O'Meara, The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine. "Good straightforward article."

**Honorable Mention:** Sweet Cherries by Alan Campbell, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. "Overall a fine story with good local color and voice, explaining the relationship between weather and the sweet cherry harvest well. But if you are writing a serious agriculture story, next time leave out that

someone's fruit stand is "cute by any standard." It's editorializing and undermines your credibility."

### BEST BREAKING NEWS STORY

#### Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000

**First Place:** Tsunami warning puts disaster response to the test by Kevin Hessel, Naomi Friedland, The Ark, Tiburon, California. "A 60-word single sentence lede is too long. But this is good solid coverage of how much more needs to be done to better implement public notification systems and coordinate media with emergency officials. Perhaps more tabletop and full-scale exercises will be suggested by the media in editorial opinions to better prepare for the future? The boxed sidebar explaining to the public how to be better informed during a disaster is excellent; the Red Cross tsunami cellphone app could've been included."

**Second Place:** Henderson and greater region experiencing historic flood levels by Rachel Miller, Beth Cornish, Henderson (Minnesota) Independent. "Nothing fancy, but good solid reporting. Not a fan of starting stories with dates like the two on the front page. Also would've liked to see attribution or citations for all of the current and 1850s statistics. And bullets would have made the lists of road closures easier to read."

**Third Place:** Ice Jam by Carrie Pitzer, Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska. "This coverage of the third worst ice jam at the Elkhorn River bridge in recent memory is a straightforward account from when it was first noticed to its complete removal. It would have been interesting to know how many people assisted in total, how many total manhours were logged, and the total cost to the various agencies. Perhaps these were in a follow-up story. Also, the word "at" is missing in this sentence: "By the time Tilden Rescue confirmed at 9:22 a.m. that



an ice jam had formed (AT) the bridge west of Oakdale, Gary Park of NDOT was already.”  
**Honorable Mention:** Archbold Ambulance In Thursday, Aug. 8 Crash by David Pugh, Archbold (Ohio) Buckeye. “Pretty straightforward. Would have liked to know how fast the ambulance was going when the accident occurred, when was the last time there was an accident during a call, if the driver had any other accidents/tickets, how difficult it will be for the jurisdiction to operate without the damaged ambulance, etc. Also, this newspaper clearly doesn't follow the Associated Press Stylebook. Why not?”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999**  
**First Place:** SageWest faces suit by Sarah Squires, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. “such a sad story!! Handled very clearly, including other allegations which all add up to a sad story.”  
**Second Place:** Fed. suit alleges RPD racism by Sarah Squires, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. “No one likes bullies. The writer did a good job of explaining the issues of the officer, and his help with the community, which went unappreciated by his peers.”  
**Third Place:** Local sheriff's deputies answer call to help pacify UNC's campus by Tomas Murawski, The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina. “I liked this sentence: Neither deputies nor Bearcat armored personnel carrier ended up being needed. Excellent introduction.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-11,999**  
**First Place:** Glan Lake Teacher by Brian Freiberger, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “Good job of getting this story into the paper quickly. No doubt readers appreciated the information and details behind the band leaders' arrest. Great job! Stories like this remind readers why newspapers continue to play an important role in their daily life.”  
**Second Place:** Milfoil by Alan Campbell, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “Well, it certainly isn't sexy but I'm guessing milfoil is an important topic in a state with so many lakes. The writer did a good job of jumping on this story and getting it to readers quickly. Good job of tracking down all the details.”  
**Third Place:** Kayaker by Brian Freiberger, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “Drowning stories are never fun to write but it is important to keep the community informed and the writer did a good job of that in this instance, and quickly got the details in the paper for the public. Keep up the good work.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 12,000 or more**  
**First Place:** ETV News Best Break-

ing News Story by Brittnie Castro, ETV News, Price, Utah. “Great job capturing the moment and relating the news in an easy-to-understand format.”  
**Second Place:** A Tragedy That Requires Action by Staff, The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina. “Clear and concise. Easy to read.”  
**Third Place:** Resort owner Carol Holding dies at 95 by Gabe Barnard, Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, Idaho. “Story was well written.”

**Daily Division**  
**First Place:** 3 Die In Centerville Slayings by Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan. “In this tremendously competitive category with a good number of worthy entries, what set this story apart was the depth of reporting. This story, using multiple sources, conveyed a harrowing narrative while also providing the greater context.”  
**Second Place:** 'And then the next rain came' by Jared McNett, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “Covering natural disasters quickly and accurately is of the utmost importance as misinformation can spread easily. These stories sum up a disaster well in a way that allows people to understand the basic facts in a timely manner.”  
**Third Place:** North Fair Oaks fire 6-3-24 by Braden Cartwright, The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California. “This story presents a different kind of tragedy, the loss of future critical housing inventory. The incident itself is shocking, but the greater implication is heartbreaking.”  
**Honorable Mention:** 14-hour search for shooting suspect ends with citizen tip by Priscilla Waggoner, Valley Courier, Alamosa, Colorado. “This is a thoroughly reported account of something that no doubt caused immense rumors throughout the community. Excellent work with the timeline.”

**STORY-SERIES - BEST BUSINESS FEATURE STORY**  
**Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000**  
**First Place:** Four-legged counseling sessions by Mark Brown, The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, Tennessee. “The story pulls you in from the beginning and keeps you interested all the way through. A good feature story grabs your attention quickly and the author did that well in this case. The best of a packed category of good entries.”  
**Second Place:** She’s really cleaning up - Business Feature - Greenville by Travis Hairgrove, Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas. “Just a quality piece from beginning to end. Author tells story with good detail without getting bogged down. Top-notch work.”  
**Third Place:** Lamecker's General Store sells its last hammer by Ted Almen, The Kerkhoven (Minnesota) Banner. “Well-told story. Shows

both excitement and heartbreak in the same story. Excellent work.”  
**Honorable Mention:** Honey business by Cinthia Stimson, with Sabrina Broberg, Douglas (Wyoming) Budget. “Detail. Detail. Detail. This story gives the information people would want to know and does so with style and a little flair. Good work.”  
**Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more**  
**First Place:** Making Way for Change by Ana Risano, The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina. “I feel for this community, losing its mainstay grocery store. This is happening in too many rural places. Great job in developing the lede and working to the impact it will have on many people.”  
**Second Place:** BestBusinessFeatStory\_PCPNov2024pg26\_GarageBarber by Sarah Hodges, Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas. “I love stories about young people finding their niche. He's an artist - and so is the writer. Great job.”  
**Third Place:** Stampin’ Sam leaves his mark by Olivia Lewis, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Wright has done an excellent job with what could have been a run of the mill story. Stampin' Sam, you are famous now and I expect you to receive even more orders. Daniel Pearson gets a nod for excellent photography.”  
**Honorable Mention:** 'People need a place to play' by Olivia Lewis, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “The writer did her job, introducing us to Popolos. I want to go there. So much nostalgia in the story, tying in the need for community. Love it.”  
**Daily Division**  
**First Place:** Grant To Help Ponca Tribe Process Buffalo by Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan. “A look at plans to process buffalo from all angles, including jobs, local customs, and environmental considerations.”  
**STORY-SERIES - BEST BUSINESS STORY**  
**Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000**  
**First Place:** 7-30 580 Pitch Contest awards thousands to local entrepreneurs by Mindy Ragan Wood, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “Interesting story told in interesting manner. Great writing. Well-structured story packed with lots of information. I'm certain your readers enjoyed it. Stories like this remind your readers why newspapers continue to play an important role in their daily lives. Keep up the good work.”  
**Second Place:** Pork Processing Plant by Curtis Awbrey, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “A lot of work went into this story and it shows. Solid reporting. Why is the artwork/photo so small? Still, I'm certain your readers enjoyed it.”

**Third Place:** Nothing Like This In The World by Carrie Pitzer, Stanton (Nebraska) Register. “Solid reporting. Well-planned and educational. I'm certain your readers enjoyed it.”  
**Honorable Mention:** Solar farms cropping up in southwest Oklahoma by Debi DeSilver, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “Good job of reporting on a growing industry that are cropping up in communities and counties nationwide.”  
**Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-3,999**  
**First Place:** Who Will Watch the Kids? by Leonard Sparks, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “This article gives business a personal face: families affected by a lack of childcare. Data driven, profile driven. Well balanced writing.”  
**Second Place:** Candy Store owner says rent hike forcing closure by Francisco Martinez, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Excellent article. The personal story of the shop owner forced to close because of a high rent increase will resonate with readers. Thorough and factual.”  
**Third Place:** Businesses find ways to cope with rising costs, energy bills by Francisco Martinez, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “A story that could resonate with any business owner in this country. Strong data. Thorough writing sprinkled with personal perspectives of local business owners.”  
**Honorable Mention:** Jason's closes indefinitely by Jordan Rusche, Jody Michael, The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota. “Although this is a hyperlocal story, a closure like this can happen anywhere. A complete picture that shows how the closing of a business ripples throughout a community. Well done.”  
**Non-daily Division, circ. 4,000-5,999**  
**First Place:** How much should you pay for a good sandwich in Brooklyn by Jeremy Skehan, The Red Hook Star-Review, Brooklyn, New York. “Sounds delicious! And a great way to give back to the community, and very creative!”  
**Second Place:** Business fraud series by Marit Gookin, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. “Who knew this type of fraud was going on?”  
**Third Place:** Red Hook businesses bring good news to the Red Hook Rec Center by Nathan Weiser, The Red Hook Star-Review, Brooklyn, New York. “Nice donation! Great for youth!”  
**Honorable Mention:** Steel Warehouse a good fit for Jefferson City by Mark Brown, The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, Tennessee. “so many laws!!!”  
**Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999**  
**First Place:** One and Done by Melissa Siig, Moonshine Ink, Truckee, California. “judge best written of the top three.”  
**Second Place:** Manitous Access



by Alan Campbell, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “Good explanation of a unique topic.”  
**Third Place:** Business Solutions by Adelia McGuire and Sharon O'Malley, College Park (Maryland) Here & Now. “Explained economic issues.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000-14,999**  
**First Place:** Big Box Country series by Becca Tucker, Advertiser-News North, Chester, New York. “Controversy was handled well with this story.”  
**Second Place:** Veterans tapped for local employment by Barbara Davias, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “WE love our veterans!”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 15,000 or more**  
**First Place:** As ecotourism grows, so does the desire to maintain Downeast’s wild character by Joyce Kryszak, The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine. “Well-rounded story. I found myself wanting to know a few of the most popular ecotourism attractions and hearing from a visitor or two about what they enjoy most. Well-written story.”  
**Second Place:** Downtown Retailers Adapt to Changing Market by Frank Daniels IV, The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina. “Good job with this. You can feel the frustration of the shop owners behind their friendly responses.”

**Third Place:** BestBusinessStory\_PCPAug2024pg6\_AppointmentatDPS by Sarah Hodges, Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas. “Well done! The web is rife with online scams and your story validates and gives credibility to a legitimate business offering a wonderful service. Good job.”  
**Honorable Mention:** BestBusinessStory\_PCPJune2024pg43\_Mahjong by Sarah Hodges, Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas. “I had to look up "Mahjong" to find out what it was. Fascinating niche to market a specialty product. This story has a comfortable pace and is easy to read.”

**Daily Division**  
**First Place:** What's to become of ex-Tyson offices? by Mason Dockter, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal.

**STORY-SERIES - BEST EDUCATION/LITERACY STORY**  
**Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000**  
**First Place:** Shane Knoche heads home by Erin M. Gentz, Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press. “An extremely well done story that perfectly captured the extremely tough decisions faced by Shane.”  
**Second Place:** Tiburon student graduates from Redwood, College of Marin in three-week span by Francisco Martinez, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Great job with the use of quotes in this story.”

**Third Place:** EDUCATION LIBERATES DONOVAN PRISON INMATES by Camila A. Gonzalez, Jose Guzman, Holden Ames, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “Such a great story to read.”  
**Honorable Mention:** Connecting through classroom critters by Hannah Romero, The Green River (Wyoming) Star. “This was a really informative story, though the story could have been better (and placed much, much higher) with quotes from more than just Dan Parson.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more**  
**First Place:** PGCPs asks for patience as busing improves for some by Kit Slack, Hyattsville (Maryland) Life & Times. “Well documented story of a problem seen in many jurisdictions. Great research and presentation.”

**Second Place:** “Too stressful”: Why some students are saying no to standardized tests by Becca Tucker and Molly Colgan, Sparta Independent, Chester, New York. “Interesting story on a topic becoming more and more common. Well researched and formulated.”  
**Third Place:** "Lead in the Water" by Sam Gauntt, College Park (Maryland) Here & Now. “A story that highlights what many would not consider a problem in today's world. Well done finding details and bringing this to light.”  
**Honorable Mention:** ETV News Best Education Story by Jamie Swank, ETV News, Price, Utah. “Well done piece bringing to the forefront a concern not only of this community but of the nation.”

**Daily Division**  
**First Place:** ‘I hope you hear our hearts’: LCSD1 school board reluctantly supports MCER study by Ivy Secrest, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “Article takes a difficult topic and breaks it down for average reader to understand the difficulties faced by school boards as well as the greater need for community input and involvement. With failing infrastructures nationwide this is a timely piece about how few control the futures of many and how generations will be impacted by these decisions.”  
**Second Place:** USD’s Native American Day Festivities Part Of Efforts To Attract More Native Students by Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan. “Engaging piece that focuses on both Native culture's history and future with education at the crux of those paths. Informative as well as encouraging while integrating the totality of what the college experience can mean for all including academics and athletics.”  
**Third Place:** "We're working the work" by PRISCILLA WAGGONER, Valley Courier, Alamosa, Colorado. “Piece tackles difficult questions--particularly struck by the use

of "Feel good" programs portion--what many outside the education system may see as frivolous is now deemed necessary due to societal changes. Too, the focus on outdated facilities and what it takes to affect change at basic levels of environment is handled well in the article.”  
**Honorable Mention:** Mentoring Program Aids New School Officials by Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan. “Piece deftly describes the difficulties faced by educators at all levels and how bureaucracy has changed aspects within education and how educators are taking strides to combat those changes. Nice personal glimpses and use of quotations let the educators' voices come through as well as well as highlight the difficulties that will come with the future gaps in filling roles.”

**STORY-SERIES - BEST ENVIRONMENTAL STORY**  
**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000**  
**First Place:** Talking Trash, Part 1 by Brian PJ Cronin, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “This story has all the elements of a winning story: Independent reporting, multiple sources and an entertaining read.”  
**Second Place:** Report emphasizes urgent need to respond to sea-level rise, but peninsula efforts stall by Gretchen Lang, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “This story is a winner because it provides the reader with insights from multiple sources. And it offers context and background from a journalist who has studied the issue. This is coverage that matters, and it's coverage that a reader will pay to read.”

**Third Place:** Mosquito/West Nile series by Marit Gookin, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. “Interesting subject, multiple sources and an entertaining read. One of my old mayors used to say that the only mosquitoes the bug sprayer killed were the ones that hit the windshield, but the citizens demanded it.”  
**Honorable Mention:** Lawton spending millions to rehab its sewage treatment plant by Mike W. Ray, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “I'm recognizing this story because this reporter is really bird dogging this story, as we say in the South. It's an important issue, and the public needs someone to keep an eye on it. I would rate it higher if it were less procedural and transactional (based on reports and filings) and more on impact and human reactions.”

**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more**  
**First Place:** Community solar is booming in Maine, but who owns the projects? by Murray Carpenter, The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine. “Bracing article that highlights the politicization of supposedly environmentally friendly options

when turned into corporate gains. Hopefully the article will cause more scrutiny at every level of oversight & governmental & public involvement. Well written & timely.”  
**Second Place:** The Northeast San Fernando Valley gets greened by Diana Martinez, Alejandro JMS Martinez, Gabriel Arizon, San Fernando (California) Valley Sun. “Engaging series of how citizenry can take charge of neglected lands & spaces whilst also teaching future generations how to become stewards of both natural resources as well as provided assets.”  
**Third Place:** PFAS levels in local water systems exceeding the EPA’s new standard by Molly Colgan, Sparta Independent, Chester, New York. “Well written & informative article with excellent use of info-graphics. Touching deftly on both the health & environmental factors that will impact the public as well as the expenditures for the situation to be addressed.”  
**Honorable Mention:** TPWD deploys materials for new artificial reef by Dannie Oliveaux, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Impactful article about an environmental niche, which is often covered on a global scale. Too, the information relates to both reusing & repurposing items which can't go into landfills or become otherwise traditionally mitigated.”

**BEST FEATURE SERIES**  
**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000**  
**First Place:** Untapped Workforce Solutions by Mindy Ragan Wood, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “Great series that taps on ideas that many may not have considered. Well written. Wonderful way to utilize in.”  
**Second Place:** Divide County School District new teachers by Jordan Rusche, The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota. “Wonderful way to help the community get to know new teachers. Great use of space to perform a service.”  
**Third Place:** The Good Death by Joey Asher, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “Different approach to a situation everyone faces at some point. Great way to put the idea of death into perspective.”  
**Honorable Mention:** U.S. Constitution 101 by James Finck, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “Great breakdown of the constitution with easy to understand pieces.”

**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more**  
**First Place:** Big Box Country series by Becca Tucker, Advertiser-News North, Chester, New York. “Superb series about this nationwide trend impacting so many areas as technology continues its advance. Each piece draws on its predecessor to strengthen every aspect featured and to make the public aware of the myriad pitfalls to weigh against the



promised benefits.”

**Second Place:** Cold case killer confined for life by Barbara Davis, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Gripping account of trial that doesn't sensationalize case. Particularly moving and chilling is the account of other victims' encounters.”

**Third Place:** Alcohol addiction and the LGBTQ+ community by Victoria A. Brownworth, Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) Gay News. “Affecting pieces about two of America's most open secrets—well-written tying in both the celebration of American alcohol culture with its impact and fracturing of every facet of life and the confluence of the gay club culture which worked as an avenue of liberation instead of libation.”

**Honorable Mention:** ETV News Story Series - Best Feature Story by Brittnie Castro, ETV News, Price, Utah. “Engaging piece with serious undertones for the future of community services and who will work to provide them.”

## STORY-SERIES - BEST HEALTH STORY

**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000**

**First Place:** Fighting Cancer, Helping Others by Jenny Higgins, Knox County News, Bloomfield, Nebraska. “The writing is good, and as cancer treatment improves, more women are living with stage 4 breast cancer, and stories like this are important. This could help others in their cancer battle.”

**Second Place:** Radon by Nathan Wilson, Columbia Gorge News, Hood River, Oregon. “This is a very unique subject, and it's something that is just now coming to light. The writing is clear, and it's well researched.”

**Third Place:** Medical leadership drives cancer treatment in southwest Oklahoma by Debi DeSilver, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “This story demonstrates how grant funding is improving healthcare and outcomes for patients. It is well written, and the lede is good.”

**Honorable Mention:** Local Sewage Tests High for COVID Virus by Leonard Sparks, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “This story is well-written, and it's important because we have all been interested in the COVID-19 Pandemic and the transmission of the virus. This highlights important trends and while the study was isolated to these communities, the science behind this has a big impact.”

**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more**

**First Place:** PFAs levels in local water systems exceeding the EPA's new standard by Molly Colgan, Sparta Independent, Chester, New York. “Best all around. Nice graphics, looks like a lot of research.”

**Second Place:** Reporter's notebook: Cancer by Victoria A. Brownworth, Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) Gay News. “Well told personal story.”

**Third Place:** A tenth of Maine's pharmacies have closed in the past decade by Emily Bader, The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine. “Nicely written, researched well.”

**Honorable Mention:** Experts: Medicaid expansion critical to saving Wyoming's health care industry by Hannah Shields, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “Good lead brings you into the story.”

## BEST INVESTIGATIVE OR IN-DEPTH STORY OR SERIES

**Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000**

**First Place:** Heart of a Warrior by Damon Crawford, Knox County News, Bloomfield, Nebraska. “An incredibly moving in-depth story that was very well told.”

**Second Place:** Covert County Business by Hannah Spaar, Melody Cook, The Odessan, Odessa, Missouri. “Kudos to you for this dogged coverage!”

**Third Place:** CFC Sex Scandal by Kay Fate and Rick Bussler, Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. “An important series of stories — well done!”

**Honorable Mention:** Whiskey is for drinking, water is for fighting by Mike W. Ray, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “An incredibly thorough series.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-9,999**

**First Place:** Talking Trash by Brian PJ Cronin, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “Just excellent! Well-researched, well-sourced, and well-written about a critical topic. In-depth and highly informative.”

**Second Place:** Modern Immigrants by Joey Asher, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “The personal stories bring this to life, and an excellent job of getting these people on record. In-depth and well written.”

**Third Place:** Authorities identify bridge suicide by Geoffrey Plant, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Wow! Hard-hitting, well-written, and provides essential information. Excellent job!”

**Honorable Mention:** Babysitter guilty in infant hot car death by Joel Addington, The Baker County Press, Macclenny, Florida. “Good job getting the family to talk, and persistent follow-up stories make this shine.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more**

**First Place:** Maine's Wandering Residents by Rose Lundy, The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine. “Very well done! Investigative reporting with meaningful results.”

**Second Place:** Child care providers across Maine cited for numerous safety violations by Alexa Foust, Kate Hapgood, The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine. “Very tedious data work that takes talent to pres-

ent in an easily understood story. This story does it very well.”

**Third Place:** Leaked: Beaumont's broken billing system by Barbara Davis, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Great follow with the businesses that were delinquent. Lots of voices in these stories really bring it to life.”

**Honorable Mention:** Big Box Country series by Becca Tucker, Advertiser-News North, Chester, New York. “This is a dilemma and no solution in sight. The problems and tax dependencies were fleshed out well in this series.”

## Daily Division

**First Place:** Woodbury County Drug Court by Nick Hytrek, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “A citizen-based court for drug users focused on helping more than punishing. Fairly informative, but forced to focus more on qualitative statements over quantitative because of a lack of studies. Shouldn't these stories have triggered a study, perhaps as an investigative piece?”

**Second Place:** San Mateo County Sheriff controversy by Daily Post Staff, Braden Cartwright, Dave Price, Elaine Goodman, Amelia Biscardi, The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California.

**Third Place:** K-12 special ed teachers burned out amid behavioral health epidemic by Hannah Shields, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “This is an informative story about a special education teacher shortage. A complete story, but hardly investigative, just standard good reporting. And as a lone story, it barely qualifies as in-depth. So many unanswered questions. Still, not bad ... and a good service for the community.”

## STORY-SERIES - BEST NON-PROFILE FEATURE STORY

**Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000**

**First Place:** A fearless protector ... Feature Story - Greenville by Kent Miller, Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas. “While heartbreaking, this story goes behind a tragedy and tells a story we often don't get to tell. It is well-written. Quality story and quality work. A+”

**Second Place:** Best Christmas Ever brings joy to Ziebarth family by Rachel Miller, Henderson (Minnesota) Independent. “When covering an event it is sometimes easy to get caught up in the what and not answer the rest of the questions. This story answers all questions and does so in a style that is well-written and interesting.”

**Third Place:** A Well-Earned Distinction - Feature Story - Greenville by Travis Hairgrove, Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas. “This is not only a story worth telling, but a well-told story. Excellent job in every way.”

**Honorable Mention:** 'Town's End' development well underway by

Mike W. Ray, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “Well-written, quality story.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-3,999**

**First Place:** As tides turn, anchor-outs reach for a way out the bay by Gretchen Lang, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Great writing, great education on a fascinating subject. The best of several strong entries from the Ark. These folks know how to write features.”

**Second Place:** Pride and prejudice by Marit Gookin, Lander Journal, Riverton, Wyoming. “Top notch look at gay pride in one of America's most rural states. Gripping content, flowing narrative. Nice job.”

**Third Place:** Paulhus headstone's new home by Jordan Rusche, The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota. “A touching story out of the past, this is well written.”

**Honorable Mention:** A funeral for ghosts by Hannah Romero, The Green River (Wyoming) Star. “historical and mystical, compelling and informative. Thanks!”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 4,000-5,999**

**First Place:** Missing, then murdered by Sarah Squires, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. “Far and away the best of the lot -- a compelling tale written masterfully. Hats off.”

**Second Place:** Boondockers Welcome, Just Look For The Sign On Route 16 by Isaiah Atkins, The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois. “A nice delve into another threat of society. Nicely crafted.”

**Third Place:** I do, again by Erin M. Gentz, Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press. “What a sweet topic.”

**Honorable Mention:** The attack of the Chinese Mitten Crabs by Oscar Fock, The Red Hook Star-Review, Brooklyn, New York. “A nice dive off a news hook to educate us on another invasive species”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999**

**First Place:** The Subaru Bread Run by Eve Quesnel, Moonshine Ink, Truckee, California. “This the kind of story that newspaper find - that they tell -- that are lived in their communities. Well-written. Amazing photo. Total package!”

**Second Place:** Breech baby makes surprise entrance on Broadway by Jeannette Boner, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “Well written with great details.”

**Third Place:** Missing pony found by Meakalia Previch-Liu, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “A feel good story that gives you the warm fuzzy feeling. Great job.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000-14,999**

**First Place:** As legislation lulls, Pennsylvanians struggle with the current name change process by Lauren Rowello, Philadelphia



(Pennsylvania) Gay News. “Great job explaining the process and pitfalls of undergoing a name change if you're trans or nonbinary. A thorough reporting job. The writer did a great job of putting a face to the story and keeping it interesting from start to finish. Keep up the good work!”

**Second Place:** Cold case thaws this summer by Dannie Oliveaux, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “I enjoyed this report. It was well-written and was a quick read despite all the details the reader had to absorb. The story is almost a crime novel. Good job enlightening the public on this tragic event.”

**Third Place:** Beer and American Sign Language build bridges for hearing community by Jessica Arends, Hyattsville (Maryland) Life & Times. “My brother is deaf so I can appreciate what the writer went through to make this story understandable to the reader. Keep up the good work!”

**Honorable Mention:** Ketchum romps through frontier history during annual Wagon Days celebration by Gabe Barnard, Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, Idaho. “Good reporting. Lots of useful and interesting information. Keep up the good work.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 15,000 or more**

**First Place:** In memory of Daniel Kibler: Donation hog raises over \$30K in 4-H scholarship funds by Sara Welch, Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio. “Beautifully written. Great details. Story goes beyond the basics. Photos bring faces to details.”

**Second Place:** BestFeatStory-Non-Profile\_PCPMay2024pg30\_AnimalL-overHelpsRooster by Sarah Hodges, Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas. “Great story that is a breath of fresh air. Nice photos to add to it. Bravo.”

**Third Place:** From Chemo to Kindness by Deborah Salomon, The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina. “Wonderful, well-written story with stellar photos. Bravo.”

**Daily Division**

**First Place:** American dream cut short by Dolly Butz, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “

**The story** of an immigrant who went missing and ended up dead. Almost a profile feature so much time is dedicated to his story. The story would have been stronger if it used his story to jump into the bigger problem, which is addressed only in passing here.”

**Second Place:** Heroes Save Christmas by Mike Motz, Barbara Perez, Sidney (Nebraska) Sun-Telegraph. “A local re-enactment of the Grinch who stole Christmas as though it was a real story. Cute.”

**Third Place:** Recovery Warriors by Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan. “The story of a podcast telling stories about meth addition recovery. Could use a bit more passion, but

overall solid.”

**Honorable Mention:** Group organizes after racist incident at South High School by Noah Zahn, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “A little too newsy. Could be a great entry, but most of it is just covering a meeting. Would like to see the reporter go a little deeper, and not jus as an add-on near the end of the story.”

**STORY-SERIES - BEST PROFILE FEATURE STORY**

**Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000**

**First Place:** Ava's smile still bright while battling rare cancer by Molly McRoberts, Potter County News, Gettysburg, South Dakota. “Well-written, interesting and educational. This story should be included in journalism 101 text books on how to handle delicate topics, such as a child with cancer. I'm certain your readers enjoyed the story and couldn't wait to meet Ava in person. Stories like this remind readers why journalism continues to play an important role in their lives.”

**Second Place:** Mitchell Hagen delivering the gift of a smile by Kari Jo Almen, The Kerkhoven (Minnesota) Banner. “Well-written. Educational and interesting. This story certainly will remind readers why they subscribe to the banner: for stories about their local community and people. Keep up the good work!”

**Third Place:** A day for remembrance by KateLynn Slaamot, News Letter Journal, New Castle, Wyoming. “I really enjoyed this report. What an experience. Great job of recounting the horrifying experience for your readers. I can't help but wonder why it wasn't on Page 1? (It would have been in my newspaper!) Keep up the good work.”

**Honorable Mention:** Polish community honors WWII vet Sunberg by Nick Johansen, The Red Oak (Iowa) Express. “Nice tribute story. Interesting and informative.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-3,999**

**First Place:** Not Homeless, Just on an Adventure by Hanna Maglio, Hernando Sun, Brooksville, Florida. “Exceptionally well written story that tells a tale filled with surprise and respect. Well done!”

**Second Place:** Faith, family, sports, and ‘soaps’ form cornerstones for new superior court judge by Kristy Bailey, The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina. “Thorough story telling of a pillar of the community focusing on all he holds dear. Well done interview and presentation.”

**Third Place:** A lifetime of connections by Hannah Romero, The Green River (Wyoming) Star. “Extremely well written chronicle of this man's life and those with whom he connected.”

**Honorable Mention:** Lisa Hester

lived a life of faith, love and friendship by Marianne Ratcliff, Ojai (California) Valley News. “Touching story of community well written.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 4,000-5,999**

**First Place:** SOUTHWESTERN SUPERMAN JMS by Nicolette Monique Luna, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “Outstanding reporting and writing. Great use of quotes. This is journalism at its best. Despite the length, it was an easy and quick read (and I had to read it twice!) I know your readers read it from start to finish. First-class reporting deserves a first-place award! Keep up the good work!”

**Second Place:** Litchfield Author Profiles 30-Year Hunt For I-70 Killer by Isaiah Atkins, The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois. “A lot of effort went into this profile piece and it shows. Great job. Rock-solid reporting and interviewing. Good use of quotes. I'm certain your readers read every word, I know I did.”

**Third Place:** Buffalo's last logger by Alex Hargrave, The Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin. “Interesting and well-told. Great use of quotes (some rather colorful at that) and weaving logging industry stats in the story. I'm certain your readers enjoyed it. This sort of story reminds your readers why newspapers continue to play an important role in their daily lives. Keep up the good work. Journalism is alive and well in your neck of the woods (see what I did there?)”

**Honorable Mention:** Being 92 is besides the point for artist, writer, actor by Katherine Rivard, The Red Hook Star-Revue, Brooklyn, New York. “What a delightful story about a 92-year-old artist. It's clear you spent a great deal of time interviewing her for this story and it shows. Solid reporting let down by weak photo and poor layout. She's an artist, for god's sake, and so are you! Go big or go home when it comes to writing about artists/photographers/writers and other creative people. You have to be equally creative when covering them. Still, I'm certain your readers enjoyed the story.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999**

**First Place:** The Gros Ventre guardians' last day by Billy Arnold, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “Intricately told story that required a ton of research and lengthy interviewing. Subject was a fascinating piece of history”

**Second Place:** The Mushroom Man by Priya Hutner, Moonshine Ink, Truckee, California. “Outstanding story that weaves the take of the person with interesting facts about mushrooms. Well written”

**Third Place:** Surviving the Unimaginable by Tiffany Connolly, Moonshine Ink, Truckee, California. “Excellent story that takes the

experience of a person and illustrates the greater problem and how the organization described in the story helps to find solutions”

**Honorable Mention:** ‘A kind of madness’ by Geoffrey Plant, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “This story is a lot of fun, very descriptive, and offers a few unusual turns.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000-14,999**

**First Place:** When you get a phone call saying your son is lying dead on the side of the road by Bob Quinn & Beth Quinn, Advertiser-News North, Chester, New York. “Incredibly powerful piece which hopefully serves as a direly needed warning about these unregulated substances.”

**Second Place:** When and where will Snow Crane land? by Griffin Limerick, Hyattsville (Maryland) Life & Times. “Well-written piece featuring an intriguing niche in the culinary world.”

**Third Place:** Volunteers ensure widow has home for holidays by Dannie Oliveaux, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Moving piece about those in need and those who meet them. Too, the piece has an underlying focus on how few do much with little and how many are needed to help in service.”

**Honorable Mention:** Champion doctor has love for the arts by Chad Cooper, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Engaging piece about one man's endearing respect for art and its power to speak to us about history--rather than focusing on his ability to collect, the focus is on the artists and what they're able to relate to more people by his sharing the collection. Nicely done.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 15,000 or more**

**First Place:** 12-year-old girl with Apert syndrome shows largest steer at Portage County Fair by Sara Welch, Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio. “Sara Welch puts it all together -- a heart-warming topic told in a beautiful narrative that simply draws the reader through the tale, answering all the questions and hitting all the right notes. Well done.”

**Second Place:** Tree farmer wins Ohio Tree Farm of the Year award for restoring former strip mines by Liz Partsch, Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio. “Farm & Dairy goes two for two in this category. Liz Partsch's only fault is her subject wasn't quite as compelling as Sara Welch's first-place profile. Great job of writing.”

**Third Place:** His Kitchen Rocks by Emilee Phillips, The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina. “Part of the secret of writing a great profile is finding a great subject to profile. Emilee Phillips did that and then did a great job of telling a fascinating tale.”

**Honorable Mention:** Don't Throw Away That Empty Cereal Box by Sarah Hodges, Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas. “A brisk look at a



glass artist. Gets the reader in and out.”

Daily Division

**First Place:** ‘Never going to get through this:’ Nannette Hernandez’s life was upended by COVID by Noah Zahn, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “Heart-breaking story. Great job!”

**Second Place:** Family, corgi, important in returning to normal by Dolly Butz, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “This story pulls at the heartstrings. Very nicely done.”

**Third Place:** For Vietnam Vets, A Belated Thanks by Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan. “Focusing attention on a group of veterans who are often overlooked. Very well done.”

**Honorable Mention:** A man who loved a clock, the community who loved the man by Priscilla Waggoner, Valley Courier, Alamosa, Colorado. “Touching story with a fascinating history.”

STORY-SERIES - BEST PERFORMING ARTS STORY

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000

**First Place:** Free Pipe Organ by Brian PJ Cronin, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “This story is unique. There truly aren't many who can play a pump organ these days, and this story captures both the subject's passion for organ music and the instrument itself.”

**Second Place:** Nancy Dolin in a Rock 'n Roll Grandma by Joey Asher, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “This story was an excellent portrait of Nancy Dolin, a would-be rockstar. I love the way the narrative flows revealing bits about her past and her desire to be a performer. Great job.”

**Third Place:** T is for Trumpet by Alison Rooney, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “A snappier lede could have taken this up a notch, making it a second- or first-place contender, but the story overall is well-written.”

**Honorable Mention:** Magical production enchants crowd by Erin M. Gentz, Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press. “At first, I wasn't sure about the first-person use here, but after reading it again, I think it adds to the magic of what the play was like for the audience. Well done.”

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 - 9,999

**First Place:** SOUTHWESTERN SUPERMAN JMS by Nicolette Monique Luna, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “Wow, what a story! This Informative and interesting. Congratulations on weaving all these threads together into a compelling account. I'm certain your readers enjoyed every word! It's stories like this that remind readers why newspapers and journalism continue to play an

important role in their daily lives. Keep up the good work.”

**Second Place:** NATIONAL CITY’S IMMORTAL ‘ANGEL BABY’ by Alexa Lima, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “Great writing on what is now an obscure, one-hit wonder long forgotten by most people and no longer played on the radio. I listened to it as a young man (yep, I'm that old) and sang and hummed along to the song because of the simple melody and lyrics. So I enjoyed the story. However, most young people have never heard Angle Baby or of Rosie and the Originals — and, really, isn't that the market we're trying to reach? (Not old fogies like me.) I took off points because of the narrow appeal of the story. Still, great job of recounting Rosie's life story and her impact on leading musicians. A lot of depth in this story. Lots of sources to keep the story lively and flowing smoothly. Despite it's length, it was a quick read. I even went to YouTube to hear Angel Baby again for the first time in decades. Solid reporting. Keep up the good work.”

**Third Place:** GODFATHER OF CHICANO THEATER by Blanca Esthela Castañeda García, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “Great writing. Story was educational, interesting and inspiring. That's some good interviewing, let me tell you. Really good use of quotes.”

**Honorable Mention:** Performing Arts Story - Rockwall by Kent Miller, Rockwall County Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas. “Interesting story. Solid reporting. I'm certain your readers enjoyed it.”

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more

**First Place:** The 'real' family band by Bruce Miller, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “A well-written story. Sharing just enough of the history and leading us into the surviving members of the family and how they keep doing the thing they have always done - sharing music. I enjoyed this and even went to YouTube to listen to their biggest hit. Congrats on 1st place. Bruce Miller knows how to craft a story, great reading for a Sunday morning.”

**Second Place:** The Nutcracker by Chad Cooper, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Thanks for sharing the story of The Nutcracker! Well done in starting with the beginning of its history, tossing in scenes and bringing its characters and performers to life. The layout was good and the old reference news photo was a great addition to the overall entry. Chad Cooper, congratulations on 2nd place!”

**Third Place:** 'Corteo' will enchant audiences at Ford Park by Chad Cooper, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Great story and this would make anyone want to see the show. Crafted well and easy to read. All the details of the show only enhance

the interest for someone who enjoys performance shows. Good job! Congratulations on 3rd place Chad Cooper!”

**Honorable Mention:** Rocky Horror wouldn't be the same without a shadow cast by Taylor Staples, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “It's obvious the writer enjoyed crafting this story. Telling details about the set, things that happen but keep the performers moving along, and the rehearsals. Congrats to Taylor Staples on 4th place.”

STORY-SERIES - BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY OR SERIES

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000

**First Place:** He's An Animal by Carrie Pitzer, Stanton (Nebraska) Register. “Two big things in Nebraska: Football and FFA. Nicely written story on high school football star Garrett Hansen. Great descriptive writing. Good job!”

**Second Place:** Classmate’s tribute and honor Gold Star families by Steve Ranson, Lahontan Valley News & Fallon (Nevada) Eagle Standard. “Touching story on friends' memories of a U of Nevada athlete who died during military service in the Viet Nam War.”

**Third Place:** Teammates, friends turn rivals for girls tennis crown by Francisco Martinez, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Nice piece on a pair of high school tennis girls and close friends who played against each other for a championship and helped their team win a high school title.”

**Honorable Mention:** Gettysburg teen's scars... by Molly McRoberts, Potter County News, Gettysburg, South Dakota. “Really strong and detailed feature on a high school athlete who overcame double knee surgeries, one of them involving a cadaver donation.”

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-9,999

**First Place:** HARDWOOD SUPERHEROES by Emily Ingco, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “This is a sensational story filled with imagery and told in an imaginative, creative way. Writing about losing teams is a massive challenge, but this was done in a way that celebrated the positive in a beautiful way. Great job.”

**Second Place:** How positivity and renewed sisterhood revived Liberty softball by Jeff Weisinger, Brentwood (California) Press. “Love the descriptive nature of the practice and the effortless nature the writer transitions to the meat of the story. Very well done.”

**Third Place:** ‘BOYHOOD DREAM COME TRUE’ by Juan H. Estrada, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “Very strong lede for a story that was helped with the visual elements. As a sports-writer, it's always great to highlight

local athletes doing well, and this story did that beautifully.”

**Honorable Mention:** Allred sisters often hit the sand in college beach volleyball tournaments by Bob Sutton, The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina. “There is a deep field of entries, but what separates this story from about five others is the depth of knowledge the writer has of the athletes. The writer did his homework and is obviously a storytelling pro. Great job!”

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more

**First Place:** A Ghosts story by Jared McNett, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “This is a really nice long-form story remembering the Sioux City Ghosts, an all-Black softball team that won 2,000 games, entertained crowds and became softball's Globetrotters around the country. Fascinating story. Great details and interviewing.”

**Second Place:** New Hyattsville soccer team opens doors for local players by Griffin Limerick, Hyattsville (Maryland) Life & Times. “A terrific story exploring the founding, and growth, of a Hyattsville soccer team that really goes back to Cameroon roots. Great details and reporting. Made me want even more, as good stories tend to do.”

**Third Place:** Stewart's One Moment Lives On by Jonathan Bym, The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina. “Good job on a story that includes a U.S. Open win, the famous course at Pinehurst, a shocking death and an emotional statue that brings it all together. Very good "inside" details and reporting.”

**Honorable Mention:** Brody Cress is Cheyenne's cowboy by Matt Atencio, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “Writer Matt Atencio does a nice job bringing us into the world of Wyoming rodeo cowboying and featuring one of its hometown rising stars. Wins a buckle!”

STORY-SERIES - BEST SPORTS STORY

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000

**First Place:** Wilke Overcomes Injury by Carrie Pitzer, Stanton (Nebraska) Register. “The best in class for sure. A great human-interest story told so well from start to finish.”

**Second Place:** Pedigree Stage Stop mushers close in on finish line by Cali O'Hare, Pinedale (Wyoming) Roundup. “Well-written for what it is, though the construction of the article is confusing, with the headline and lead paragraphs about the sled dog race mushers as a whole but then only one team focused on for the rest of the article, with no mention of any of the others. Either change the headline and lead so it reads as a feature article, or make some mention of the leaders of the race so it reads as a straight-news article.”



**Third Place:** Giants baseball competes at state by Rachel Miller, Henderson (Minnesota) Independent. “Each of the two entries by this author has strong points as well as opportunities for improvement. This one overcomes a cliched lead paragraph with great use of game stats and player quotes.”

**Honorable Mention:** Giants are headed to state! by Rachel Miller, Henderson (Minnesota) Independent. “I love the quotes from team members about the keys to their championship. The article could be strengthened by avoiding use of vague opinions from the writer about team members' dedication and buy-in, especially when you already have similar and better statements from the team members themselves in the article.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-3,999**

**First Place:** Season Dedicated To Her Mom by Jenny Higgins, Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska. “Great story about a memorable athlete and her mom. I would have liked some quotes from teammates or the mom, if her condition allowed. The writer knows wrestling.”

**Second Place:** Longtime football coach steps down by Thomas Ranson, Lahontan Valley News & Fallon (Nevada) Eagle Standard. “Two State Championships! A nice send-off for a football coach that made his mark on a school.”

**Third Place:** Outlaws, back in play-offs, aim to finally beat Shiloh by Jody Michael, The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota. “I hope the Outlaws got their sweet revenge. Loved the quotes from the players.”

**Honorable Mention:** Down, but never out; How Western Alamance put together the greatest soccer comeback in state history by Bob Sutton, The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina. “Great job at capturing the mood. And congrats to the team! Suggest tightening the lede.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 4,000-5,999**

**First Place:** Domeward Bound by Ross Shinberg, Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press. “This story has it all. Great lede, strong imagery, wonderful storytelling, impactful quotes, background information and stats...lots of stats. Easily the best entry of the bunch!”

**Second Place:** The throw of a lifetime by Ross Shinberg, Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press. “The writer did a tremendous job of absorbing all the little things around the big moment. Those details are easy to overlook, but when used in pieces”

**Third Place:** Investigation continues - Sports Story - Rockwall by Kent Miller, Rockwall County Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas. “Strong investigative piece. It could have used a stronger headline for

the entire package, but the information was solid.”

**Honorable Mention:** Birdie Gives Cowdrey Top Spot At Staunton by Kyle Herschelman, The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois. “Nice job highlighting a young golfer having a great day. Based upon this entry, this is golf-loving community.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999**

**First Place:** Fighting for more than the podium by Kyle Leverone, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “Wonderful story – with excellent descriptive writing by Kyle Leverone – on how friendship and commitment rule in the sled dog sport. It's a long story (supported by great photography) and well worth the read.”

**Second Place:** Meet the 10-year-old girl from Brentwood who can kick your butt by Jeff Weisinger, Brentwood (California) Press. “Love this story by Jeff Weisinger. Great quotes from subject, parents and coaches that capture the passion and persistence required to become a champion. Sports stories that impart a lesson for other athletes, parents and coaches to learn from go a lot further than just a story about wins and losses.”

**Third Place:** Speed record on Grand rejected by Jeannette Boner, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “Wish the lede was not buried four paragraphs into the story, after it already had been shouted in the headline. Subject matter, however, is a wonderful break from the usual sports story submissions. Education Reporter Jeannette Boner did well to get so many interviews and perspectives. Good job!”

**Honorable Mention:** Moeggenberg by Alan Campbell, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “Writer Alan Campbell tells a great story of a professional basketball player back home on the family farm, reflecting on how different the WNBA was nearly 20 years ago. Bet this was a popular story in the hometown paper.”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more**

**First Place:** Wood River softball coaches allege Title IX violations by Gabe Barnard, Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, Idaho. “Sad but true illustration of Title IX not getting its due. Shows how tough the girls are!”

**Second Place:** BestSportsStory\_PCPDec2024pg24\_Determination-BeyondtheMat by Todd Jorgenson, Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas. “Great story on the efforts of one girl to make a change in her community.”

**Daily**

**First Place:** During Vermillion Vis- it, Mills Discusses Racial Issues by Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South

Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan. “Great story of a personal battle against racism.”

**Second Place:** Coyotes Packed Up For Battle by Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan. “Community partnership breeds success for the team.”

**Third Place:** Winning through pain (MMA fighter) by Jeremiah Johnke, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “This fighter ha real grit and passion for his sport, understanding what he has to overcome to win.”

**Honorable Mention:** Walking The Walk by Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan. “Shows the value of staying connected throughout your life.”

**STORY-SERIES - COMMUNICATION IN CRISIS**

**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000**

**First Place:** Hurricane Helene aftermath by Mark Brown, Steve Marion, The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, Tennessee. “Excellent coverage of Hurricane Helene and the aftermath. I get a distinct sense of personal and community storytelling that shows the importance of communication during a disaster.”

**Second Place:** CFC Sex Scandal by Kay Fate and Rick Bussler, Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. “Powerful series of stories involving a sexual assault. Thorough coverage. Well written.”

**Third Place:** Tsunami warning puts disaster response to the test by Kevin Hessel, Naomi Friedland, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “I cannot imagine not receiving notices about a tsunami that may hit. This is a well-written article that leaves an important message. Good job.”

**Honorable Mention:** Local jurisdictions mobilize to help with Hurricane Helene relief in western NC by Tomas Murawski, The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina. “Well written article from a different perspective. It provides a good overview of how the community helped.”

**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more**

**First Place:** June flooding in Siouxland by Staff, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “OUTSTANDING! What solid reporting on an issue that affected every single one of your readers. Very informative. The writing painted a picture of the destruction that was easy to read and comprehend. Kudos to the editor who organized this team effort and saw it through to completion. I'm certain your readers enjoyed the comprehensive coverage. Captivating photos. This sort of reporting reminds your readers why newspapers remain a valuable part of their daily lives. Keep up the good work!”

**Second Place:** Teton Pass collapse by Staff, Jackson Hole News&Guide,

Jackson, Wyoming. “Great reporting on an issue that affected so many of your readers! Good job of putting a face to the story. I'm certain your readers enjoyed the comprehensive coverage.”

**Third Place:** Post-election impact on the LGBTQ+ community by Jeremy Rodriguez and Lauren Rowello, Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) Gay News. “Good reporting on an important subject.”

**STORY-SERIES - PRESERVING LOCAL HISTORY**

**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,500**

**First Place:** A lifetime in pictures Jeanette Smith by Christopher Kelley, The Mountain-Ear, Nederland, Colorado. “I really liked this one. It tells the story of someone who might have lived next door to you and you finally found out some very wonderful things about them. This chronicles a life well led and someone who cared so much about others. Very good and enjoyable to read”

**Second Place:** The Game - Preserving Local History - Greenville. pdf by Kent Miller, Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas. “A true baseball fan would love this one and be glad to have read it. What a great thing for Greenville's minor league team. This story takes you back to a magical time and captures a worthwhile memory. The ballpark is gone but the accomplishment will live forever, Good job”

**Third Place:** Digging Deep by Cynthia Stimson, Glenrock (Wyoming) Independent. “Very complete and in depth. Interesting read and a story well told. Enjoyed it and the learning that went with it”

**Honorable Mention:** He helped end WWII and all he got was a lake: The story of Sen. Elmer Thomas by Don Armes, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “Worthwhile learning about this. As one who was born at the end of WWII I can identify with how much this means to our nation. Very good job”

**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 2,500-4,999**

**First Place:** Uncovered history by Mark Brown, Steve Marion, The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, Tennessee. “Wow. An easy choice for first place. Great research, great writing and great design. This newspaper shows a real dedication its community and that community's storied history.”

**Second Place:** Should sinking floor of Sesquicentennial Park be fixed – or the whole thing demolished by Tom Boney, Jr., The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina. “It's obvious a lot of effort went into this piece. Great research, great sourcing. I was also pleased to see the newspaper editorial board take a stand. I hope it helped to preserve the park.”

**Third Place:** A champion for the



common man by Sarah Squires, Lander Journal, Riverton, Wyoming. “The front page teaser is great - almost is good as the lead that instantly drags the reader into the story.”

**Honorable Mention:** 2024 Heritage Edition by Staff, The Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin. “This is truly a phenomenal section, great photos, great layout, excellent writing. it would fit better in a different category, though.”

**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 - 8,999**

**First Place:** Chief Black Coal by Sarah Squires, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. “‘These items pick you’ is a tremendous quote. I would have put it in a break out on the front to tease readers to go inside. Well flowing story and good choice to put bio at end and then wrap up with final quote was excellent ending. ‘It had been in a box in his attic.’ I would lead with Temple Smith had it in a box in his attic to establish him as source and not confuse with previous source.”

**Second Place:** NATIONAL CITY’S IMMORTAL ‘ANGEL BABY’ by Alexa Lima, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “This story was enthralling. Keeps reader wanting more, excellent placement of big rock stars showing their appreciation of Rosie. Needed to be tightened a bit, ‘in her autobiography’ what is title and when was it published? ‘Later in life’ was this in the 1980s, 1990s? When was later in life. Solid ending, wonderful tribute story.”

**Third Place:** Restored Bell Ringing Again In Utica by Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan. “Writer knows what they are doing. Great lead, solid writing throughout. Bell history was a good way to set up story. Nice quotes from pertinent people. Needed a bit more meat on the bone of the history of the church or what the bell means to congregation/history of the church.”

**Honorable Mention:** The Woman Who Spotted the Wildfire by David Fenimore, Moonshine Ink, Truckee, California. “Personal angle is good premise to get story out there, good use of ‘that is \$20 million in today’s dollars’ to show impact to reader. Nice ending, good digging into woman’s life and her kids. Quotes could be a bit long, breaking them up a bit. Maybe more on what happened to her family and how that impacted the initial story. Kind of leaves you hanging in a way.”

**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 9,000 or more**

**First Place:** Steel mills in Weirton see a rebirth of industry with Form Energy by Liz Partsch, Rachel Wagoner, Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio. “A pretty good history of the local steel industry and its problems over time.”

**Second Place:** UP History Quiz by

Sarah Hodges, Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas. “Not exactly a riveting read, because it is a quiz. But it is a bold entry in history-filled competition.”

**Third Place:** When racing was the rage by Mason Dockter, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “The history of a local greyhound racing track until its eventual demise. Some interesting storytelling.”

**Honorable Mention:** “The First 100 Years” by Sharon O’Malley, College Park (Maryland) Here & Now. “The local fire house turns 100 this year and this story talks about changes that have occurred over the years with a spark of hope for the future. An easy read.”

**VIDEO JOURNALISM**

**Daily & Non-daily Division**

**First Place:** A Mother’s Fight for Bridge Barriers by Erin Holton, Facundo Martinez, Sofia Milojevic, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “Emotional, exceptional detail in this video! A complete story from the mother/activist: her son’s suicide she witnessed and endured to her persistent pleas before state officials seeking protective screens on the state’s “suicide bridges” . . . frustration personified first hand!”

**Second Place:** Meet The Coach That’s Improving Liberty High School Softball by Jeff Weisinger, Brentwood (California) Press. “Complete view of new coach’s commitment to reshaping frustrated team members into an enthusiastic band-of-girls who shared their supportive comments along with details that led to change.”

**Third Place:** Double hitting: State Rep. J.D. Scholten talks Sioux City Explorers by Hannah Schuh, Logan Shanks, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “Exceptional story marked briefly in this video. Reporter guided the subjects; great context; focused comments by the politician/baseball pitcher.”

**Honorable Mention:** WyoSports 2024 Female Athlete of the Year: Taliah Morris by Matt Atencio, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “Excellent video of competitor’s success in track and field events. The entry was guided with succinct commentary and reporting by the narrator. The subject’s performance was shown in a variety of clips.”

**BEST NEWSPAPER WEBSITE**

**Daily & Non-daily Division**

**First Place:** HighlandsCurrent.org by Staff, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “Lovely, clean website that highlights social media accounts. So many websites clutter up the viewer’s eyeballs. They don’t provide a pleasant experience. I didn’t see a temperature widget, that might improve the page design. Easy to donate to the non-profit newspaper with easily found buttons. Great work!”

**Second Place:** PinalCentral.com by Staff, Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch. “PinalCentral offers a clean, professional layout with clear navigation, strong visual hierarchy, and solid mobile responsiveness. Content is easy to read, and social links are integrated for broader engagement. Ads are present but mostly unobtrusive. The site includes a podcast, which adds a nice multimedia touch, though video and interactive content are still limited. Overall, it’s a strong local news site with room to expand its digital storytelling.”

**Third Place:** thearknewspaper.com by Kevin Hessel & Ark staff, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “The Ark’s website is clean, easy to navigate, and well-organized, reflecting the paper’s trusted, hyperlocal focus. Its straightforward design puts content first, with clearly labeled sections, readable typography, and fast-loading pages. Social media links are conveniently placed at the top, helping connect readers to broader platforms while reinforcing community engagement. A small visual touch like the “Pick of the Week” photo adds charm and variety to the layout. However, the site lacks multimedia features. There are few videos, no audio elements, and minimal interactivity, which limits appeal for a more modern digital audience. Still, the site delivers solidly on clarity and function, serving its readers well with room to grow.”

**Honorable Mention:** Taos News by Heather Owen, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Taos News delivers a clean, visually engaging site with strong use of photography and a modern layout that reflects the region’s artistic identity. Navigation is straightforward, and stories are easy to access across sections. However, the site lacks visible social media links, which limits its connectivity and reach despite having active platforms. Multimedia content is minimal, and while the visual design is appealing, the overall digital experience would benefit from more video, audio, or interactive elements. It’s a solid site with good aesthetics, but it falls behind in digital engagement.”

**STORY - SERIES - BEST OPIOID CRISIS COVERAGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000**

**First Place:** Marion’s OD Alarm Bell by Chris Evans, The Crittenden Press, Marion, Kentucky. “Good localizing of national story, with actionable information sidebars. Dominant photo especially effective.”

**Second Place:** ‘Think Again’: County fights ‘shadow’ fentanyl epidemic by Grant Phillips, Ojai (California) Valley News. “First person testimony by parent was effective.”

**Third Place:** Opiod settlement money by Joel Addington, Elizabeth

Lucas, Brittany Wright, The Baker County Press, Macclenny, Florida. “Good ongoing coverage of dollars coming to the community, and plans to use them.”

**Honorable Mention:** Fentanyl central factor in opioid-related deaths by Mike W. Ray, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “Good overview of actions being taken locally to combat Fentanyl abuse epidemic.”

**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more**

**First Place:** When you get a phone call that your son is dead on the side of the road by Bob Quinn & Beth Quinn, Advertiser-News North, Chester, New York. “This tragic, personal story is so powerful as the family continue to struggle with the impact of their son’s death.”

**Second Place:** The Maine Monitor’s opioid coverage by Emily Bader, The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine. “Comprehensive coverage of Maine’s struggle to cope with the epidemic, including helping marginal communities like Native Americans and women with children.”

**Third Place:** Opioid Settlement Funding Challenges Nonprofits by Elena Marsh, The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina. “Showing the challenges faced by nonprofits in receipt of large amounts of money to combat the opioid problem.”

**Honorable Mention:** Tragedy strikes local family by Emily Mibach, The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California. “This sad story shows no one is immune from the drug problem.”

**AUDIENCE/ CIRCULATION: IT’S ALL ABOUT AUDIENCE**

**Open**

**First Place:** It’s All About Audience by Rick Bussler, Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. “This is a newspaper that understands the importance of readership. It is reaching out again and again with attractive promotions to bring readers in. It is an example to emulate in the industry. Nicely done!”

**SEE BNC ENTRIES WITH NNA-MEMBER LOGIN AT:**

**HTTPS://BIT.LY/4P48PC5**



# ADVERTISING

## BEST ADVERTISING IDEA

### Daily & Non-daily Division

**First Place:** Willows anniversary ad by Barry Anderson, Brandon Heinrichs, The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California. "Love this. Ad rep and art department clearly go the extra mile for this client. Great idea and well executed".

**Second Place:** Willows tri-tip map by Brandon Heinrichs, The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California. "Ditto. Love this."

**Third Place:** County News & Coffee by Carrie Pitzer & Kimberly Large, Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska. "Made me slap my forehead and say 'why didn't I think of that?' A perfect way to self promote while driving traffic to your advertiser and building good will for both of you."

**Honorable Mention:** Castle Gate Mining by Jamie Swank, ETV News, Price, Utah. "An odd subject for ad sales but the accident clearly had a great impact on the community that continues to be felt. Done in good taste and perhaps comforting to the descendants of those who died."

## BEST ADVERTORIAL OR SPONSORED EDITORIAL

### Daily & Non-daily Division

**First Place:** Success Stories by Ellen Miller Goins, The Taos (New Mexico) News. "From honoring student-athletes and celebrating artistic traditions to showcasing innovative businesses and heartfelt volunteerism, these pieces embody compelling narratives with authentic voice and professional polish. The originality of themes, clean and eye-catching layouts, and the seamless integration of sponsor messaging into well-written, engaging content is impressive. These advertorials didn't just inform readers — they invited them into vibrant, local experiences that resonate long after the page is turned."

**Second Place:** BestAdvertorialSponsoredEditorial\_PHPJun-2024pg1\_ConciergeMedicalTeam by Preston Hollow People, Preston Hollow People, Dallas, Texas. "This entry delivers a clean, professional layout anchored by a polished portrait photo. The writing exudes authority, professionalism, and warmth, articulating the value of concierge medicine without sounding elitist. It places a strong emphasis on service differentiation, teamwork, and patient care. There's a nice rhythm in the storytelling. A touch more originality or visual creativity would have elevated this to

the top spot, but it remains a model of tasteful advertorial execution."

**Third Place:** Locals turn to Jersey Roots by Molly Colgan & Kayla Hartigan, West Milford (New York) Messenger. "This piece stands out for its elegant balance of brand narrative and editorial tone. The story of a woman-owned cannabis dispensary helmed by a pharmacist bridges credibility and community relevance beautifully. It's rich in customer testimonials, specific services, and professional expertise. The layout is crisp and modern, with eye-catching product photography and consistent fonts. Most importantly, it reads like a thoughtful local feature rather than a blatant ad, hitting the sweet spot of sponsored storytelling."

## BEST CLASSIFIED SECTION

### Daily & Non-daily Division

**First Place:** Taos News Classifieds Section by Mary Chavez, The Taos (New Mexico) News. "Love the layout, design and eye catchiness, good job."

**Second Place:** Classifieds by Jason Plowman, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. "Like that you had several pages in your classifieds, nice layout."

**Third Place:** Best Classified Section WCJ by Ron Schott, Wright County Journal, Mountain Grove, Missouri. "I like that you had color on your classifieds, makes them pop."

**Honorable Mention:** Best Classified Section by JR Study, Mallory Schenach, Gillette (Wyoming) News Record. "Nice and clean look."

## BEST HOLIDAY AD

### Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000

**First Place:** Seven Beers Ago by Carrie Pitzer, Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska. "Good, clean pun with attention-getting art."

**Second Place:** Bacon Spirits Bright by Jennifer Lewis, Fairbury (Nebraska) Journal-News. "Clever. Wish the image was cleaner."

**Third Place:** 2024 Winter Walk by JR Study, Gillette (Wyoming) News Record. "Great idea - love the reader participation aspect."

**Honorable Mention:** Christmas Ads by Christine Jacobson, Ashton Hagen, April Franken, Grant County Herald, Elbow Lake, Minnesota. "love that the ads are from the people behind the businesses."

### Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000-9,999



**'It seems to me very important to the idea of true democracy — to my country — and to the world eventually — that all men and women stand equal under the sky.'** — Georgia O'Keeffe

Taos County was formed in 1852 and was one of the original 9 counties in New Mexico.

**taoscounty.org**

**FIRST PLACE,** Best Series Ad Idea, Black & White, Daily & Non-daily Division  
Shane Atkinson and Jason Rodriguez, The Taos (New Mexico) News

**First Place:** The Gift of Leelanau by Mike Anderson, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. "Very eye-catching and clean design. The design is simple but effective, with good use of color and space."

**Second Place:** First Presbyterian Church, Hillsboro by Mary (Galer) Herschelman, The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois. "Clear message and well-organized information. Gets the point across effectively. Great job!"

**Third Place:** Larry Martinez Jewelers by Jason Rodriguez, The Taos (New Mexico) News. "Beautiful ad that showcases the product well. The pops of red and yellow are eye-catching and pull the viewer in. Nicely done!"

## BEST MULTIPLE ADVERTISER SECTION

### Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000

**First Place:** Home, Spring 2024 by Henriette Corn, Emily Lavin, The Ark, Tiburon, California. "Beautiful and creative layout and design. Such a great use of space and stunning photos and informative and interesting content."

**Second Place:** The Tobacco Days Issue by Diane Everson, The Edgerton (Wisconsin) Reporter. "A very effective, informative and educational way to celebrate your area's history and sense of community."

The photos and articles are very interesting and the ads show a great source of support for your area, it's people and it's history."

**Third Place:** Edgerton Winter Sports Preview 2024 by Diane Everson, Dave Wedeward, The Edgerton (Wisconsin) Reporter. "An excellent overall preview of the Winter Sports season. This type of section is wonderful to support the area schools, athletes and fans to showcase upcoming sports, teams and premier athletes. The community support is well showcased through the advertising."

### Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000-9,999

**First Place:** Holiday Gift Guide by Staff, The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois. "Gets all advertisers in at the same time, good idea."

**Second Place:** Salute to Cherries by Leelanau Enterprise Staff, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. "That's neat that you have Cherries as a focus in your section."

**Third Place:** Enchanted Circle Map by Jason Rodriguez, The Taos (New Mexico) News. "That is a cute idea with map and advertisers. simple."

**Honorable Mention:** Shop Downtown Staunton by Matt Paxton, The News-Gazette, Lexington, Virginia. "Very nicely done."

### Daily & Non-daily Division, circ.



**10,000 or more**  
**First Place:** BestMultipleAdvertiserSection\_PCPSep2024\_PCFootball-Preview by Park Cities People, Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas. “Very professional.”  
**Second Place:** BestMultipleAdvertiserSection\_April2024\_UP100 by Park Cities People, Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas. “Made me want to go visit spots there.”  
**Third Place:** Real Estate 3-1-24 by Marvin Ancheta, Melanie Dela Cruz, The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California. “Nice layout.”

**BEST NEWSPAPER PROMOTION**  
**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000**  
**First Place:** Break our website by Amy Menerey, News Letter Journal, New Castle, Wyoming. “Great use of font.”  
**Second Place:** Holiday Lights 2024 by Jessica LaFone, The Mountain-Ear, Nederland, Colorado. “Fun font.”  
**Third Place:** County News & Coffee by Shelby Pitzer & Kimberly Large, Knox County News, Bloomfield, Nebraska. “Clean.”  
**Honorable Mention:** Road Rally by Carrie Pitzer, Stanton (Nebraska) Register. “Eye Catching.”

**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000-9,999**  
**First Place:** Land Water People Time by Chris Wood, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Nice designs, interesting concepts, great way to pull readers in. Like a mystery novel, you get to the end, piece everything together and say, 'Ah, I get it.' Wonderful layout.”  
**Second Place:** Ski Pioneers by Jason Rodriguez, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Good concept. Strong design.”  
**Third Place:** Perfect Day at the Beach by Mike Anderson, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “Good use of color. Nice concept.”

**BEST PUBLIC NOTICE SECTION**  
**Daily & Non-daily Division**  
**First Place:** Public Notices 1/19/24 by Melanie Dela Cruz, The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California. “Very easy to read.”  
**Second Place:** Taos News Public Notices by Mary Chavez, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Easy layout design.”  
**Third Place:** Gazebo Gazette Public Notice Section by Hunter Dawkins, Gazebo Gazette, Pass Christian, Mississippi. “Very professional looking.”  
**Honorable Mention:** Daily Washington Law Reporter by Donald J. Nichols, The Daily Washington Law Reporter, Baltimore, Maryland. “Very interesting way to do notices.”

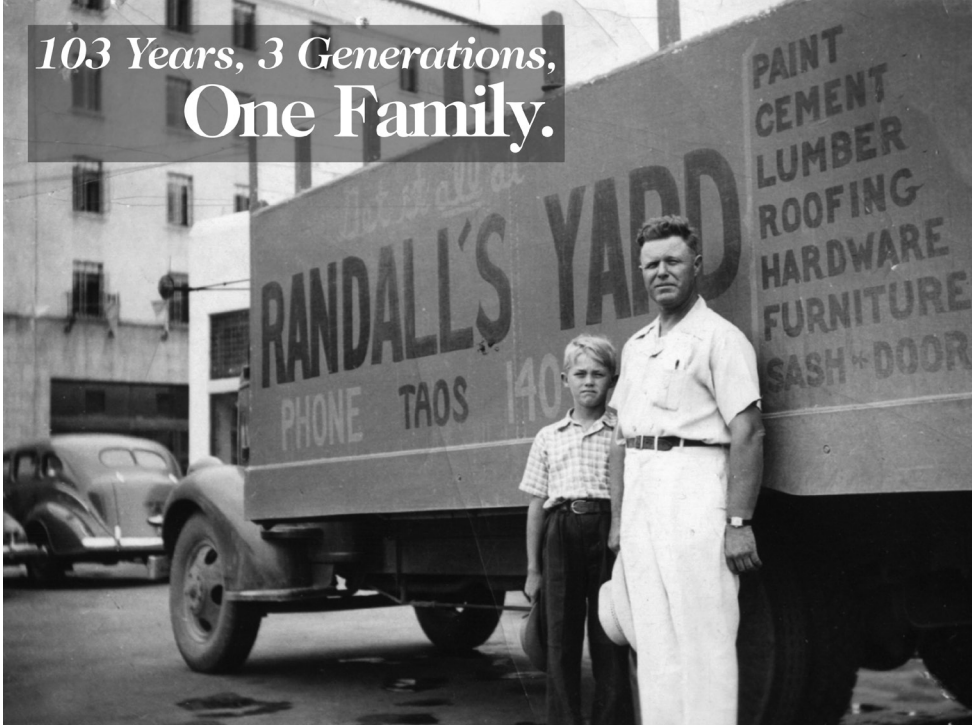
**BEST REAL ESTATE AD**  
**Daily & Non-daily Division**  
**First Place:** Wilbur Properties by

Marvin Ancheta, The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California. “Real Ad, nicely built, professional.”  
**Second Place:** Featured Realtor by Jason Plowman, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “Love this idea.”  
**Third Place:** Gazebo Gazette Best Real Estate Ad - Amy Wood Properties by Hunter Dawkins, Gazebo Gazette, Pass Christian, Mississippi. “lots of houses all at once.”  
**Honorable Mention:** Transferable Groundwater by Kimberly Large, Cedar Valley News, Greeley, Nebraska. “Nice and simple.”

**BEST RESTAURANT AD**  
**Daily & Non-daily Division**  
**First Place:** Mike's Diner Bar by Brandon Heinrichs, The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California. “This ad bursts with energy and urgency. The layout delivers excellent visual hierarchy, from the headline to the food images. The copy is concise but effective — “GO NINERS!” says it all. Creative composition and punchy design invite immediate action. A textbook example of successful event-driven restaurant advertising. A masterful use of food imagery and color. The clean layout makes the Eggs Benedict the visual star. Strategic use of orange and yellow echoes brunch tones, while copy delivers variety and clarity. It feels both indulgent and accessible. Elegantly simple and visually delicious — strong work.”  
**Second Place:** The Gorge Bar and Grill by S'zanne Reynolds, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “The Gorge Bar and Grill restaurant ads stand out for their vivid imagery, smart layout choices, and appealing copy. From bold food photography to punchy taglines like “Something for Everyone” and “Best Local Bites & Brews,” each ad captures brand identity while enticing readers with flavor and ambiance. Their originality and execution deliver compelling visual storytelling that connects directly with audiences.”  
**Third Place:** Taos Inn by S'zanne Reynolds, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “These three Taos Inn ads effectively market the restaurant's vibrant happy hour scene through consistent branding, bold visuals, and smart layout. Each ad uses strong focal imagery—whether beer, cocktails, or smiling patrons—to evoke mood and appetite. The copy is concise and action-oriented, and the repetition of logos, hours, and themes reinforces recognition. Together, they showcase a cohesive, well-executed campaign that's playful, polished, and tuned to the rhythms of nightlife and seasonal energy.”

**BEST SALES PROMOTION SECTION OR EDITION**  
**Daily & Non-daily Division**  
**First Place:** 2024 Pet Calendar by Staff, Gillette (Wyoming) News Record. “Great idea!”

103 Years, 3 Generations,  
One Family.




Honoring our heroes today and yesterday...in our families and communities.

After over a century of building Taos, you could say our roots run deep. An honest day's work, a firm handshake, and a fair price. That's what we believe in.

A legacy of commitment to our customers, our families and our town.

"The Home Experts" • 315/317 Paseo del Pueblo Sur, Taos • 575.758.2271 • randalltaos.com



**FIRST PLACE,** Best Best Single Ad Idea, Black & White, Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more  
S'zanne Reynolds, The Taos (New Mexico) News

**Second Place:** Ads By Kids by Staff, Gillette (Wyoming) News Record. “These are great!”  
**Third Place:** Energy Edition by Cinthia Stimson, Carrie Calliham, Alisha Carver, staff, Douglas (Wyoming) Budget. “Very clean.”  
**Honorable Mention:** 2024 Pet of the Year by Jessica LaFone, The Mountain-Ear, Nederland, Colorado. “Everyone loves animals!”

**BEST SERIES AD IDEA, BLACK & WHITE**  
**Daily & Non-daily Division**  
**First Place:** Taos County by Shane Atkinson and Jason Rodriguez, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Stunning photographs and the perfect way to use history to highlight the community.”  
**Second Place:** Cypress Point Retirement Community by Zoe Cooper, Byron McConnell, Maricopa (Arizona) Monitor. “The ad is like receiving a special invitation to a welcoming and inviting place. Who would not want to go visit?”  
**Third Place:** Thriftway Market by Kimberly Large, Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska. “Nice use of space and tag lines. Easily captures the reader's attention.”

**BEST SERIES AD IDEA, COLOR**  
**Daily & Non-daily Division**  
**First Place:** Care Indeed by Brandon Heinrichs, The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California. “Clean, consistent design. Simple message. Photos of people jump out, relatable to reader. Very eye-catching.”  
**Second Place:** Steve's Mirror and Glass by Isabelle Kern, Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press. “Good, clean campaign. Consistent design leads to TMA.”  
**Third Place:** NJ State Fair by

Christina Scotti, Sparta Independent, Chester, New York. “Attractive ads. Consistent, informative layout with eye-catching graphics.”  
**Honorable Mention:** BestSeriesAdIdea-Color\_RescueAir-Spa-dea\_Aug-Oct-Nov-Dec2024 by Tana Hunter, Melanie Thornton, Emma Saldivar, Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas. “Very simple design make the ads stand out.”

**BEST SINGLE AD IDEA, BLACK & WHITE**  
**Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000**  
**First Place:** Shop Archbold by Mary Huber, Archbold (Ohio) Buckeye. “Creative”  
**Second Place:** VBS - Breaker Rock Beach by Heather Johnson, Rock County Star Herald, Luverne, Minnesota.  
**Third Place:** Pinal County Veterans Memorial Foundation by Brian Kramer, Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch. “Great”

**Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more**  
**First Place:** Randall Lumber by S'zanne Reynolds, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Great photo.”  
**Second Place:** Gold Rush Days by Kim Draper, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger.  
**Third Place:** Fiesta de Taos by Louis Codone, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Nice.”  
**Honorable Mention:** Boys & Girls Club of the Sun Corridor by Nick Arnold, Maricopa (Arizona) Monitor. “Great!”

**Daily Division, circ. less than 10,000**  
**First Place TIE:** Nelsons Fireplaces by JR Study, Gillette (Wyoming) News Record. “Great attention



grabbing headline and use of space for the promotion.”

**First Place TIE:** Gazebo Gazette Best Single Ad, Color - Taste of Long Beach by Hunter Dawkins, Gazebo Gazette, Pass Christian, Mississippi. “Nice, clean and inviting.”

**Second Place:** Spring Thrift Sale by Pierce Strudler, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “Fun use of color. Draws the eye with it's unique look.”

**Third Place:** Carrie Pitzer by Work Anywhere. Live Where You Want., Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska. “The ad speaks volumes.”

**Honorable Mention:** It's Planting Season - Pepsi by Heather Johnson, Rock County Star Herald, Luverne, Minnesota. “Great use of space and photo.”

BEST SINGLE AD IDEA, COLOR

Daily & Non-daily Division

**First Place:** Taos Pueblo by S'zanne Reynolds, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Incredible by every stretch. Poetic. Beautiful. Use of thirds. Vibrant colors. It shows a place naturally.”

**Second Place:** Mudd and Flood Mountain Shop by Lindsey Rae, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “I have seen few ads in my time that are so poetic and built around selling the dream. Great piece.”

**Third Place:** Parsons Gallery by Chris Wood, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Perfect display of art. Impressive visually. Draws attention well.”

**Honorable Mention:** Best Single Ad Idea, Color by Barney Kane, Fredericksburg (Texas) Standard-Radio Post. “Great use of the AIDA principle. Attention grabbing and impressive.”

BEST SMALL-PAGE AD Non-daily Division, circ. less than

**5,000**

**First Place:** Arbor Day by Angeli-que Boyer, Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska. “Creative, excel- lent holiday use, lovely cover princi- ple, and visually striking. Fonts are also lovely.”

**Second Place:** Black Hills Vigilantes by Amy Menerey, News Letter Journal, New Castle, Wyoming. “In- credibly attention grabbing. Probab- ly in need of a better call to action but still impressive.”

**Third Place:** Cooper Painting Inc. by Zoe Cooper, Byron McConnell, Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch. “The color and hard lines make this one really pretty and easy to look at.”

**Honorable Mention:** Tri-Valley Fire Equipment by Zoe Cooper, By- ron McConnell, Casa Grande (Ari- zona) Dispatch. “Visually appealing and great use of space.”

Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more

**First Place:** Zeke's by Jason Rodri- guez, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Great use of photos. Very eye catching. Professional.”

**Second Place:** Bad Billy Cycles 03- 08-2024 by Andrew Rulloda, Annie Ray, Eric Kinnaird, Brentwood (Cal- ifornia) Press. “Eye catching design. Good placement of logo. Informative ad.”

**Third Place:** Earth Oven 1/8 page ad by Sara Kollig, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Good mix of photo and text. Eye catching.”

**Honorable Mention:** Jenti Jewel- ers by Megan Bowen, West Milford (New York) Messenger. “Clean look- ing design. Good artwork.”

Daily Division

**First Place:** Quinto Sol by Marvin Ancheta, The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California. “Very visually appealing. Who would not want to give Quinto

This is what our community would be like without our local retailers.

Support our local businesses.

SHOP ARCHBOLD!

Archbold SuperValu Foods	Dairy Queen of Archbold
Fairlawn Retirement Community	Lugbill Supply Center
Pennycrest Floral & More	RTEC Communications
Sauder's TV & Appliance, Inc.	Archbold Buckeye
Archbold Area Chamber of Commerce	The Corner Gallery

FIRST PLACE, Best Single Ad Idea, Black & White, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000  
Mary Huber, Archbold (Ohio) Buckeye

Sol a try?”

**Second Place:** Spring Sports / CBH Coop by JR Study, Gillette (Wyo- ming) News Record. “Great use of color. Making the most of the small space without seeming too crowded. Great job.”

BEST USE OF AD COLOR Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 10,000

**First Place:** Grant County Solid Waste by Christine Jacobson, Ash- ton Hagen, April Franken, Grant County Herald, Elbow Lake, Min- nesota. “Informative, great use of color to draw eye between different examples. Very organized, easy to read ad.”

**Second Place:** Earth Day by Angel-ique Boyer & Shelby Pitzer, Knox County News, Bloomfield, Nebras- ka. “Great color photo that is the attraction of the ad. Very eye catch- ing. Love the silhouette.”

**Third Place:** Taos Winter Sports Team Ski Swap Full Page Ad by Sara Kollig, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Love the design of this ad. Simple, but it works. I love the cut out of the skier - with the colorful clothes.”

**Honorable Mention:** Days Inn by Mallory Schenach, Gillette (Wyo- ming) News Record. “The gloves with the heart immediately caught my eye. Very eye catching.”

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more

**First Place:** Palo Alto Blueprint by Brandon Heinrichs, The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California. “This ad wins for its conceptual brilliance and color control. The integration of blueprint aesthetics with a re- al-world kitchen is imaginative and brand-reinforcing. The cool blue tones communicate professionalism and precision, while warm accents add approachability. The visual metaphor is clear, and the layout supports both function and creativi- ty flawlessly.”

**Second Place:** Elia opening by Brandon Heinrichs, The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California. “A stunning food-forward ad with rich, appe- tizing color saturation. The use of classic Greek blue paired with vi- brant food tones is both appropriate and enticing. The layout is balanced, and the message is elegant, though slightly less original in concept com- pared to the blueprint ad’s striking dual-visual execution.”

BEST USE OF LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHY IN ADS Daily & Non-daily Division

**First Place:** Town of Taos by Shane Atkinson, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Great blend of photos into the ad. Simple, poetic, beautiful.”

# EGGtoberfest Big Green Egg

## October 5 • 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Grilling Wings and Demos

Overstock Sale on Fireplaces & Outdoor Furniture

Nelson's Fireplaces & Luxury Patios

4000 S. Garner Lake Road • 682-7511

ONE DAY SALE ONLY

FIRST PLACE, Best Single Ad Idea, Black & White, Daily Division, circ. less than 10,000  
JR Study, Gillette (Wyoming) News Record



Saturday, September 28, 2024 Daily Post 23

OPEN SATURDAY & SUNDAY SEPT 28 & 29 1:00 – 4:00PM



Approximately 6,956 square-foot lot  
2 bedrooms and 1 bath  
Approximately 983 square feet  
Hardwood floors  
Family room with fireplace  
Freshly painted inside and out  
Excellent opportunity to renovate or build  
Palo Alto schools

Offered at \$1,988,000  
4052Campana.com

OPPORTUNITY AWAITS IN BARRON PARK

4052 CAMPANA DRIVE PALO ALTO



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Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.

TAKE CARE OF THE TREES.  
*They will take care of you.*

Happy  
**ARBOR DAY**  
TRIMMING & TREE PLANTING  
FREE ESTIMATES

TIP & TRIM  
TREE SERVICE, LLC

KADEN CAMERON 402-841-0599  
COLTON HORST 402-841-2184

LICENSED,  
INSURED,  
& BONDED!

FIRST PLACE, Best Small-Page Ad, Non-daily Division,  
circ. less than 5,000  
Angelique Boyer, Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska

**BIG GAME**  
*Watch Party*  
FEBRUARY 11th  
**SAN FRANCISCO  
VS KANSAS CITY  
GO NINERS!**

MIKE'S  
**DINER BAR**  
PALO ALTO

2680 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto • (650) 600-8737  
Open for Lunch & Dinner 7 days a week • Brunch Saturday & Sunday

FIRST PLACE, Best Restaurant Ad, Daily & Non-daily Division  
Brandon Heinrichs, The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California

Quinto Sol  
COCINA POBLANA

The Best of Cocina  
Barroca Poblana!

(650) 365-5765  
www.quintosol.ca  
2201 Broadway, Redwood City  
Tue/Wed/Thurs 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Fri/Sat 5 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

FIRST PLACE, Best Small-Page Ad, Daily Division  
Marvin Ancheta, The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California

FIRST PLACE, Best Real Estate Ad, Daily & Non-daily Division  
Marvin Ancheta, The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California



